Daily Report

Latin America

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FBIS-LAT-89-101 *26 May 1989*

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Area Leaders, Groups React to Events in Panama

Parliament Condemns Events

PA2105182889 San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 0100 GMT 21 May 89

[Text] Latin American Parliament members have condemned the recent events in Panama, the Panamanian Government's stance, and a possible U.S. armed intervention in that country.

Several representatives of this organization acted as observers during the 7 May Panamanian elections, which were later annulled. According to a report by Antonio Tacsan, the Parliament's vice president, the annulment of the Panamanian elections puts an end to the hope of returning democracy to Panama.

The Parliament's legislators also said that Panama's sovereignty is threatened by a possible U.S. armed intervention. The Parliament warned that foreign intervention in Panama would run counter to the basic principles of coexistence among nations in the hemisphere. The Parliament members concluded that intervention would lead to an unpredictable increase in the level of danger related to the current situation in Panama.

Perez Urges OAS Solution

PA2505194689 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 1839 GMT 25 May 89

[Text] Cartagena (Colombia), 25 May (DPA)—Venezuelan President Carlos Andres Perez today said in Cartagena, a city in northern Colombia, that the OAS must find a solution to the problem Panama is currently facing.

Perez, who arrived in Cartagena this morning (local time) to attend a presidential summit being held by the countries belonging to the now 20-year-old Andean Pact, said that "the problem in Panama distresses us all."

Perez told journalists that the OAS must provide a concerted solution to the problems resulting from the annulment of the recent presidential elections, which the international community has labeled as fraudulent. He added: "Only by means of an agreement will it be possible for the Panamanian people to express their will."

Much attention has focused on Perez because a few days ago he asked General Manuel Antonio Noriega [commander in chief of the Panama Defense Forces] to recognize the results of the election.

Today Perez, together with Colombian President Virgilio Barco Vargas, Ecuadoran President Rodrigo Borja, Peruvian President Alan Garcia, and Bolivian Foreign Minister Valentin Abecia, will begin a series of meetings to provide a new boost for the subregional Andean Pact.

Leaders Send Letter to Noriega

PA2505203189 San Jose Radio Impacto in Spanish 1905 GMT 25 May 89

[Text] Guatemalan President Vinicio Cerezo said Panama's political crisis could involve strategic problems for all of Latin America because of the fear of foreign intervention in that country. Cerezo added that Panama's threat to regional stability has led to much concern among Latin American leaders, who are trying to find [words indistinct] respecting the people's will. [Words indistinct] respect for the people's will, it is necessary to correct that action by creating a political opening and seeking a peaceful way to resolve the problem.

The area leaders, because of a Cerezo initiative, sent Noriega a letter asking the dictator to respect the people's will, so bravely expressed at the polls on 7 May.

The letter has been responded to by (?deeds) [words indistinct]. We are willing to attempt the impossible and find a new opportunity for a political dialogue leading to an understanding among Panamanian [words indistinct] and achieving a true democracy, Cerezo stressed.

Andean Pact Presidents React

PA2605012889 Caracas Venezolana de Television Canal 8 in Spanish 0000 GMT 26 May 89

[Report by special correspondents Richard Villa, Tobias Erragua, Roger Antiberos, and Martin Pachecos, from Cartagena, Colombia]

[Text] The presidents of Venezuela, Colombia, Ecuador, and Peru—Carlos Andres Perez, Virgilio Barco, Rodrigo Borja, and Alan Garcia, respectively—and Bolivian Foreign Minister Valentin Abecia have met in Cartagena, Colombia. The purpose of their meeting is to give more political weight to the Andean Pact and to seek new commercial mechanisms to accelerate the region's integration process.

These most senior representatives of the Andean Pact are meeting in the beautiful and friendly city of Cartagena, 650 km north of Bogota, to try to overcome the difficulties the pact has experienced because of policies not in line with the economic and social situation of the member countries, a situation that has been aggravated by the international economic crisis.

President Virgilio Barco has been in Cartagena since last night to greet the chiefs of state participating in this Andean summit meeting. Peruvian President Alan Garcia, who yesterday concluded an official visit to Colombia, was the first to arrive at Cartagena International Airport.

Ecuadoran President Rodrigo Borja arrived 30 minutes later. Third to arrive was the president of Venezuela. Julio Venegas, a Colombian Foreign Ministry official, boarded the Venezuelan presidential plane to invite President Perez to disembark. Once President Perez, who

was accompanied by Venezuelan Foreign Minister Enrique Tejera and a small retinue, descended, he was greeted near the stairs by Colombian President Virgilio Barco.

President Perez was accorded presidential military honors, and the two chiefs of state then reviewed a Colombian military unit composed of officers, noncommissioned officers, and cadets from the various branches of the Colombian Armed Forces.

[Begin Perez recording] I am happy to be in Cartagena, in this pleasant and historic land, at the side of President Barco. I have come certain that this meeting of the Andean Pact will be the beginning of a new phase of accomplishments by the Cartagena agreement. I come with this kind of optimism and certainty. We have problems, of course. The Panama problem is a source of anguish for all of us. The OAS must collectively find a definite solution to the problem. This has to be our endeavor. Multilateral actions must be firm enough to produce an agreement with the Panamanian Government so that the will of the Panamanian people may prevail. [end recording]

The meeting to commemorate the 20th anniversary of the Cartagena agreement was officially installed at 1600. The chiefs of state walked from the Los Pegasos Docks to the Cartagena Convention Center, a modern building with a capacity for 2,500 conventioneers.

The presidents and the Bolivian foreign minister met at the Barahona III Room and their official retinues met at the Barahona VI Room.

Colombian President Virgilio Barco was the first speaker at this historic meeting. He was followed by Peruvian President Garcia, Venezuelan President Perez, and Bolivian Foreign Minister Abecia.

The main topic of the speech by President Perez was the urgent need to be integrated amid the grave crisis generated by foreign debt.

Tomorrow, after receiving technical reports from commissions that have been working on the final document, the four presidents and the Bolivian foreign minister will close this Andean Pact summit meeting in Cartagena.

Afterwards they will hold a news conference during which they will deliver to the media a document that is being viewed in Latin America as the product of a new drive for Latin American integration by the Cartagena agreement countries.

Presidents To Issue Statement

PA2605013689 Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 0031 GMT 26 May 89

[Report by Raul Gutierrez from Cartagena]

[Text] Colombian President Virgilio Barco is presently inaugurating the Andean Pact summit in Cartagena, Colombia.

The presidents of Colombia, Venezuela, Ecuador, and Peru have gathered here in Cartagena to politically revitalize the subregional Andean Pact.

The Andean Pact is an economic unity agreement born 20 years ago, but it has faced too many difficulties, because there is no political consensus in the area and because the foreign debt problem, which currently is a much discussed topic, has short-circuited the Andean Pact, which intends to support itself on the economic and trade abilities of each of the signatory countries.

As in Carlos Gardel's tango, "20 Years Of Life Is Nothing," the Andean Pact has existed for 20 years and has not accomplished anything regarding Colombian, Ecuadoran, Peruvian, Venezuelan, and Bolivian economic unity.

Ecuadoran President Rodrigo Borja brought specific proposals to this summit, including the establishment of a common fund to pay the Andean region's foreign debt, which totals $76 billion.

Here in Cartagena, the Andean presidents will not only revitalize the Andean Pact; they will also issue a statement on the Panamanian situation.

[Begin recording] [Barco] This movement seeks to find a democratic and fair system for our sister nation, Panama. Panama needs a system under which it can move forward. Panama must stop being a—let us say—hideout for a man or a movement.

[Venezuelan President Carlos Andres Perez] That must be our goal, and our multilateral actions must be sufficiently firm as to succeed in reaching an agreement [word indistinct] the Panamanian Government so the Panamanian people's will may prevail. [end recording]

The Andean Pact presidential summit will end at 1600 tomorrow, when the presidents will issue a political statement and the agreement attained regarding the revitalization of the Andean Pact.

Foreign Ministers Plan To Meet 8-9 June

PA2505142189 San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 1215 GMT 25 May 89

[Text] Costa Rican Foreign Minister Rodrigo Madrigal Nieto pointed out that the Central American foreign ministers have not met for a long time. He added that he

sees no reason to justify the postponement of the scheduled meeting, adding that the fact that the Guatemalan foreign minister is participating in the Panamanian conciliatory process is no reason for canceling that meeting.

Madrigal said that Guatemala could perfectly well prepare the foreign ministers meeting scheduled for 8-9 June, which would be held 2 days following the OAS meeting to discuss the Panamanian situation, which will take place on 6 June. In that regard, Madrigal Nieto said that he hopes that the foreign ministers preparatory meeting for the next summit of Central American presidents will not be postponed.

*** Paper Backs Brazil's Rights Over Amazon Region**
33480165c Buenos Aires CLARIN in Spanish
10 Apr 89 p 12

[Text] The document on the problems of the Amazon region, sent to Brazil's president by well known Latin American intellectuals meeting in the Environmental Group of 100, makes a useful contribution to the debate which this issue has been arousing in the most widely diverse arenas of thought and decision-making throughout the world.

The protection of nature in the vast South American rainforest, most of which lies within Brazil's territory, is not, in fact, a question of exclusive interest either to the local population or to environmental specialists. Whatever is done or whatever is allowed to happen there will have a significant impact on the ecological equilibrium of the entire planet, and on this point there is no disagreement.

There are, however, some sensitive aspects involving the complex interrelationship between the individual interests of different countries, and the common good of humanity. In a world growing more closely united through technology and communications, with ever closer economic and political ties, the just assertion of national interests and plans can not stand in opposition to objectives which, far from denying such national interests and plans, include them.

Actions which result in widespread damage certainly can not benefit anyone in particular. This obvious statement, which the planetary dimensions of technology reaffirms resoundingly, still does not lead to conclusions that are quite as simple or as clear when a compromise must be worked out between the specific needs of a region or of a country and the requirements of countries which have moved more quickly along the route of development.

Problems of a magnitude that was unknown in the past are now appearing; such problems call for international cooperation and solidarity among all peoples, as none of them would be able to arrive at a solution by working entirely on their own. This is the context in which discussions on the future of the Amazon region must take place, but such discussions must not be allowed to distort or conceal the gravity of the issue.

It is not our intention in this article to analyze specific aspects of the situation which is arousing extremely bitter disputes. We want to make it clear, though, that the need to respect national sovereignty and autonomy—an unquestionable principle of international coexistence—goes hand in hand with working together to face jointly and amicably these problems which affect humanity as a whole.

In that necessary equilibrium which history shows is the only course that can guarantee equity and peaceful coexistence among nations, we find also, and this is well worth repetition, the key to ensuring the ecological balance in the Amazon region which some initiatives might endanger.

The intellectuals signing the document stated: "We believe that the historic responsibility for destroying the Amazon rainforest is a very great one, and future generations of Latin Americans will not pardon anyone for not doing everything possible."

The person to whom the document was addressed, Jose Sarney, recently warned that his government will not allow the Amazon rainforest to become a "green Persian Gulf." He also said that "the international pressure" which is being brought to bear upon Brazil about the ecological damage to the Amazon region is "insidious, cruel and not genuine," and that it is motivated by the greed which the region's wealth has aroused in some other countries.

"There are," he added, "worse forms of pollution: hunger, poverty, speculation and misery."

On 9 March the eight South American countries with sovereignty over this important basin pledged to respond jointly to any pressure brought upon Brazil, at the same time as they signed an agreement to put an end to indiscriminate cutting without reforestation, one of the most harmful practices affecting the Amazon region.

Along with the other great evils denounced by Brazil's president, which are symptoms and consequences of underdevelopment, the continent's major problem, the irrational or irresponsible use of the Amazon rainforest can be avoided and can even be turned around when the integral and harmonious growth of our nations enables us to join in the world's development on an appropriate scale.

To do so Brazil, like the other countries of the area, needs to use the Amazon's wealth, and no one can prevent it from doing so. At the same time, this potential use must not become a threat endangering the planet's climate and ecology. That would harm all countries without exception. On the contrary, the rational use of the Amazon will work to the general benefit of humanity.

Cuba

Support for GRANMA's Editorial on Bush

Principles 'Reaffirmed'

FL2505122989 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 25 May 89

[Text] Throughout the country, several activities are being carried out to support the editorial carried by GRANMA newspaper yesterday. Workers, students, and the people in general have reaffirmed the principles of our socialist revolution as a response to the arrogant attitude of Yankee imperialism.

The Carlos Serguelles omnibus factory, the Cienega workshops, the Institute of Neurotransplants, and the University of Havana, among other institutions in the capital, held meetings to express support for the revolution. Also, in Santiago de Cuba, Villa Clara, Camaguey, and other provinces, workers and students reaffirmed their decision for socialism or death, and their decision to continue ahead with the party along with Fidel.

ANPP President Comments

FL2505155789 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 1503 GMT 25 May 89

[Text] The GRANMA newspaper's editorial expresses bluntly the opinion of the majority of our people who have not carried out their Revolution with so much effort and sacrifice to now have the same former exploiters to tell them how to organize their lives. This was said to Radio Reloj by Severo Aguirre del Cristo, acting president of the National Assembly of the People's Government [ANPP], as he commented on U.S. President George Bush's absurd pretense regarding the holding of a plebiscite in Cuba.

Aguirre, who is also a member of the Communist Party of Cuba Central Committee, added that the Cubans have just held the most democratic elections in Latin America in which they expressed freely their firm idea of where the country is headed. The people defend their Revolution and is with Fidel. Aguirre said: Let Mr Bush himself come and confirm that there is only one way for Cubans: socialism or death.

FEEM Expresses Support

FL2505213889 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 1902 GMT 25 May 89

[Text] Commander in Chief Fidel Castro, first secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Cuba and president of the Councils of State and Ministers is making important remarks at the extended meeting of the National Council of the FEEM [Federation of Mid-Level School Students] which is being held in Havana's Palace of Conventions.

The first agreement reached by the students after their seventh congress was to unqualifyingly support the GRANMA editorial which responds to the infamous remarks made by the current resident of the White House.

FEEM President Sashi Hernandez says that the Cuban students do not want to follow the models of revolution cited by the Yankees. We want the model we have, she said. Hernandez used the commander in chief as an example. He shows us how to love and shows us that nothing is difficult when we fight for it, she said.

The FEEM delegates also discussed textbook problems and the lack of seriousness in selecting monitors.

Population Supports Article

FI 2505224789 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 1922 GMT 25 May 89

[Text] The workers, peasants, students, and other sectors of the population from Jaruco Municipality in Havana Province have expressed their unqualified support for the editorial published in the GRANMA newspaper in response to U.S. pretenses. Meetings were held in work centers, cooperatives, and schools to show support for our revolutionary government and to reject the recommendation made by the U.S. President to hold a plebiscite in Cuba.

The collective of workers of the national maintenance workshop, Centrales Electricas [words indistinct], repudiates the remarks made by President George Bush and supports the GRANMA editorial.

The workers of the International Affairs and Information Directorate of the peoples government in Havana also held a rally in which they strongly condemned the remarks made by the Yankee leader in reference to the future of relations with our country.

Vilma Espin Comments

FL2605012989 Havana Television Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 26 May 89

[Text] Vilma Espin, member of the Politburo of the Communist Party of Cuba and president of the Federation of Cuban Women [FMC] granted an interview for this newscast on the repercussions the editorial published yesterday in GRANMA has had on our people.

[Begin recording] [Unidentified journalist] Could you briefly give us your opinion, on behalf of Cuban women, on the self-serving remarks Bush made? He said that there is no democracy in Cuba because a plebiscite has not been held. What do you think of this?

[Espin] Look, not long ago U.S. journalists from CBS and other television networks interviewed us on Gorbachev's visit. You saw that many journalists came from

the United States. At that time, when they questioned us, they also asked us about this. They asked us if a plebiscite would be held. I told them that....

[Journalist, interrupting] [Words indistinct]

[Espin] Yes, yes, it was heading in that direction. I told them that in a country that does not have democracy, such as the United States, where the President—Reagan, for example—gets 26 percent of the votes, where blacks do not have the same rights as whites, where there is no law ensuring equality for women, that it was truly unbelievable that the United States wanted to give us lessons on democracy.

Democracy has existed in Cuba since 1959 and the people also can, and do, what the United States has not been able to do—arm the people.

We saw.... [changes thought] These remarks also show a total lack of ethics, respect. These remarks are a flagrant intervention on the part of the U.S. President....

[Journalist, interrupting] It is a provocation.

[Espin] To make statements of this kind is a provocation. We have always been provoked by the United States but it is truly concerning that we are beginning an era of a new U.S. leader who not only makes remarks about secret intervention, secret actions, about intervening in Latin America; he also openly claims the right to intervene, for example, in Panama and Nicaragua. In this case, he even mentioned Fidel's name.

That is why the people's indignation was demonstrated last night in all of the delegations of the federation [FMC] and the CDR [Committees for the Defense of the Revolution]. It is being demonstrated in statements being made throughout the country.

We know what our people's attitude is. Our people, our people [repeats herself] act like a single fist and their dignity, which soared to very high levels with the Revolution, is demonstrated strongly in situations where we are attacked, where we are offended by the United States, especially by the U.S. President. [end recording]

Production Agreement Signed With USSR

FL2505222089 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 1918 GMT 25 May 89

[Report by Sonia Rodriguez]

[Text] Since the beginning of this decade, Cuba has been participating in a cooperative production program with the GDR and the CSSR. This year, a similar effort has been conducted with the Soviet Union.

Cuba has signed an agreement with the USSR that extends through the year 2000. In one of its early stages, the agreement allows for the production of a million shoes which will be manufactured in the (Gullen Bantray) Enterprise in Havana City, the Manuel del Toro Enterprise in Matanzas, and the (Onel Canete) Enterprise in Granma. The initial production also includes a million shirts and a million pairs of pants which will be made with raw material from the USSR.

Our country receives the yarn and other accessories from the GDR and the CSSR and they later supply the finished product to their own countries. These products include work clothes, pullovers [preceding word in English], and other articles.

Zambian President Kaunda To Visit 'Soon'

FL2505120989 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 25 May 89

[Text] African leader Kenneth Kaunda, president of Zambia, will soon arrive in Cuba on an official and friendly visit at the invitation of Commander in Chief Fidel Castro Ruz.

The forger of the independence of Zamibia, former British colony of northern Rhodesia, had previously visisted Cuba in 1975 and later in 1979 to attend the Sixth Summit Conference of the Nonaligned Movement held in Havana.

Mozambique's Machungo Hosts Dinner for Rodriguez

FL2505173389 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 25 May 89

[Text] Cuban Vice President Carlos Rafael Rodriguez recalled the joint battles of our country and Mozambique last night when he attended a dinner in Maputo given in his honor by Mozambican Prime Minister Mario da Graca Machungo.

Carlos Rafael spoke about bilateral cooperation which he said was evident by the presence in Mozambique of hundreds of Cubans and by the over 1,000 Mozambican youths studying on our island.

Today, the Cuban leader will begin official talks with Mozambican colleagues, and next Saturday, in Maputo, he will attend a South Commission meeting.

PCC Official To Meet With Pope on May 26

FL2505233889 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 2313 GMT 25 May 89

[Text] Jose Felipe Carneado, chief of the Religious Affairs Department of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Cuba [PCC], will meet tomorrow with Pope John Paul II. Carneado confirmed that tomorrow afternoon he will be received by the pope and other dignitaries from the Catholic Church, including Agostino Cassaroli.

Upon his arrival last Sunday, at the invitation of Cardinal Roger Echegaray, president of the Pontifical, Justice, and Peace Commission, the high-level Cuban official said that during his meetings, he would discuss the pope's possible visit to Cuba.

Carneado today attended a breakfast presided over by Msgr Fioren Songelini, president of the Pontifical Commission for Health Workers. Also present at the breakfast was Foreign Minister Giulio Andreotti and former apostolic nuncio to Havana, Msgr (Cesar Estachi), as well as others.

During his stay in Rome, the chief of the Religious Affairs Department of the PCC also met with the general director of the Compania de Jesus [as heard], (Peter Hanbelbanchen), who asked Carneado to convey his greetings to Cuban President Fidel Castro.

Castro Presides Over Secondary Students' Meeting
FL2505162089 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 1502 GMT 25 May 89

[Text] Commander in Chief Fidel Castro, first secretary of the Communist Party of Cuba Central Committee and president of the Councils of State and Ministers, is presiding over the extended meeting of the National Council of the Federation of Secondary School Students [FEEM]. FEEM President Sashi Hernandez told Radio Reloj that dedication to study and classes and the link between study and work will be the focus of attention during the event which is being held at Havana's Palace of the Revolution.

She said that a year and a half after the Seventh FEEM Congress was held, members of the organization and the top leaders of the organs can see the achievements and deficiencies of the Congress. Sashi Hernandez noted that the situation of vocational schools and pre-professional practicums will be discussed extensively.

Participants Discuss Education
FL2605025489 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 2302 GMT 25 May 89

[Text] Dedication to studies was the first topic debated by the delegates participating in an extended meeting of the National Council of the Federation of Mid-Level School Students which is now meeting at the Palace of the Revolution. The meeting is presided over by Commander in Chief Fidel Castro.

The first secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Cuba and president of the Councils of State and Ministers listened attentively to remarks made by several delegates who agreed that this dedication is a matter of conscious. He said that this should be achieved through political and ideological work, as well as motivation.

A Havana student said that it is not that the students are rejecting their studies, but they must continue to be interested in learning more, in using textbooks. Because of this, she said, it is very necessary that teachers be truly dedicated, because he who does not love, cannot teach love. She also said that society should give teachers more recognition and in the same way that the FEEM defends the interests of students, teachers should also be given respect. Those who have no incentive cannot provide incentive, she said.

In reference to studies, Fidel followed with visible interest the remarks made by a representative from Pinar del Rio who discussed the reasons why more than 1,000 students dropped out of school in her province. Among the most important reasons she mentioned were marriage, early pregnancy, and the transfer of undisciplined students. The student called for improved sex education, for strengthening the family, and for working with teachers in the schools, and not for treating them as lost causes or passing the problem on to another school.

The meeting is being attended by 207 delegates and several organization leaders. The event began with the Cuban students unanimously expressing their support for the GRANMA editorial published yesterday. They reaffirmed that as long as the Cuban people exist, the Cuban Revolution will exist. In a single voice they exclaimed: For us, socialism or death is a real option and this Revolution is socialist or it's nothing at all!

FEEM President Sachi Hernandez gave the commander in chief a video tape with unforgettable moments from the Seventh FEEM Congress held in December 1987. The principal agreements reached at that congress are being renewed today to analyze their fulfillment.

Fans Yell at Weightlifters; Fight Breaks Out
FL2605020689 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 0119 GMT 26 May 89

[Report by Jesus Rodriguez]

[Text] We just received a PRENSA LATINA press release, dateline Ft Lauderdale, Florida, which, because of its importance, we will read, textually. It says:

The Cuban delegation attending the 15th Junior World Weightlifting Championships today gave a resounding response to a group of instigators sitting in the stands of the War Memorial Auditorium.

During a break in the competition, a group of people began to insult the chief of the Cuban delegation, Alberto Juantorena, at which time he, as well as the 10 weightlifters that comprise the delegation, headed toward the people who were yelling the insults.

Before a direct physical confrontation occurred, another group of citizens of Cuban origin asked the team to remain calm. They asked the team to let them take action and then they had a fist fight with the instigators moments before the police intervened.

About 10 officers in uniform held the Cuban delegation back to prevent them from reaching the group that insulted them. At the same time, other policemen got the instigators out of the coliseum.

Members of the security team that guard the War Memorial Auditorium confirmed that the small group from the stands initiated the insults and they asked the Cuban delegation to allow them to take action to end the scandal. They started it; let us finish it, an official said to the Cuban team shortly before removing the hotheaded instigators.

The Junior World Weightlifting Championships began today in this U.S. city in the state of Florida where a Cuban team is competing for the first time in the past 30 years.

Barbados

Guyana's Hoyte Initials 'Fisheries Agreement'

FL2505162589 Bridgetown CANA in English 2119 GMT 24 May 89

[By Mark Lee]

[Text] Bridgetown, Barbados, May 24, CANA—A fisheries agreement which has been reached for Barbados fishermen to ply Guyanese water is to cover a six month period and a 1,840 metric tonne (3.6 million pounds) harvest, Prime Minister Erskine Sandiford said here Wednesday.

Sandiford made the announcement as he and Guyana's President Desmond Hoyte initialled the agreement which will become effective after it is signed by the ministers of agriculture of both countries. A date for the signing has not been announced.

Sandiford described the pact as "one example of the commitment of both countries to make Caricom (the Caribbean Comunity) work." He said the agreement comes at a time of shortage of fish to meet local demand and the export market and Guyana has an abundance of fish but no trawlers. "Let us as Caricom countries work for our mutual benefit," the prime minister declared.

Hoyte, on the final day of a five day official visit here, linked the agreement to part of the Caribbean region's food security programme. "It (also) signals our firm intent to try to redress our situation where we are not making sufficient use of our (fisheries resources)," Hoyte said at the initialling ceremony at Illaro Court, Sandiford's official residence. Barbados Agriculture Minister Warwick Franklin said after the ceremony 10 vessels would be involved in the scheme—five up to 50 feet with a maxium of eight tonnes capacity, and five up to 80 feet with maximum 40 tonnes capacities.

Franklin said the matter has been discussed with Barbadian fishermen and about 13 have expressed interest in fishing in Guyana's waters. When the agreement becomes effective it will be reviewed after three months and at the end of the six months with a view to further extend the programme.

Franklin said negotiations were continuing with Trinidad and Tobago on fishing in the seas about Tobago, while talks will also continue with other Caricom governments on a fisheries regime for the region.

Ends Official Visit

FL2505182189 Bridgetown CANA in English 2302 GMT 24 May 89

[Text] Bridgetown, Barbados, May 24, CANA—Guyana's president, Desmond Hoyte, on Wednesday ended a five day official visit to Barbados during which he reached agreements with the Barbados Government on fishing and technical assistance for his country's Economic Recovery Programme (ERP).

A joint communique at the end of the visit said Barbados Prime Minister Erskine Sandiford and Hoyte expressed "deep satisfaction" at the outcome of discussions they had here. "The two leaders reviewed developments in the area of trade and industry in which the potential for joint venture cooperation and exchange of expertise are currently being explored, and stressed their commitment to the continued expansion of economic activity between their two countries," the communique said.

Observers here say Hoyte's mission is seen primarly as one to seek technical assistance in the development of Guyana's private sector and to restore confidence in his country's troubled economy. The communique said Sandiford showed readiness to give favorable consideration to a request by Guyana for technical assistance in the form of "qualified personnel" to assist on a short-term basis in the first instance, in the implementation of Guyana's ERP.

A fisheries agreement which was initialled by both leaders on Wednesday morning has been viewed as a main highlight of the visit. Under the six month agreement Barbados fisherman will be able to catch 1,840 metric tonnes (3.6 million pounds) of fish, including snappers and trout in Guyana's territorial waters. Hoyte linked the agreement to part of the Caribbean region's food security programme.

Barbados agriculture minister, Warwick Franklin, said that when the agreement becomes effective, 10 vessels would be involved—five up to 50 feet with up to eight tonne capacity and five to 80 feet with maximum 40 tonne capacities.

The communique said the two leaders also reiterated their commitment to the ideal of Caribbean unity and to the regional integration movement. They noted the current efforts aimed at consolidating the Caribbean Common Market, (Caricom) and the complete liberalisation of intra-Caricom trade. and expressed their satisfaciton at the progress made over the last year towards this end.

"They were also heartened by the spirit of understanding and cooperation which now characterized the dialogue of the heads of government of the Caribbean community.... In this regard, both leaders support the concept of an assembly of Caribbean parliamentarians as a useful mechanism for enhancing the regional dialogue on those political and social issues critical to Caribbean development," the communique said. The idea for the assembly was first proposed by Sandiford at the last meeting of Caricom heads of government in Antigua. In reviewing developments in Latin America and the Caribbean region, the leaders supported moves towards democracy and peace in Central America.

They however, expressed deep concern at recent events leading to the nullification of the May 7 election in Panama. They expressed solidarity with the people of Panama in their attempt towards the establishment of representative democracy in that country. Hoyte and Sandiford called for respect of the right of peoples to determine their own destiny, free from external interference. They urged continued respect for the integrity of the Panama Canal treaty.

Haiti

Christians Ask Bishops To Protest Insecurity

FL2505181289 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network in Creole 1100 GMT 24 May 89

[Excerpts] A group of Christians from (Fleuriot) in the Cul de Sac plain gathered Tuesday evening to celebrate a mass in memory of their brother Telison Reneus, who was murdered by a group of bandits on the night of 9 May. [passage omitted]

Father Pierre wondered if everybody should just cross their arms and allow bandits to murder them. He also spoke of the 23 members of the Cite Soleil vigilance brigade who have been in jail since 26 April because they were trying to defend themselves, while murderers operate daily without encountering any problems.

[Begin Father Pierre recording] [Passage omitted] This is not the kind of life God wants for us! What should we do? I must say, first of all, that it is not our role to take action against this. It is the police's role. However, when brother (Telison) was murdered, the police could have easily found out who killed him. However, they have done nothing. [passage omitted]

Brothers and Sisters, you must pray. You must have faith. However, Christ also said: You must be watchful. Don't allow sleep to overcome you. Your eyes must see clearly, because you do have a right to defend yourselves. Amen. [end recording]

At the end of this ceremony, the faithful of (Fleuriot) delivered a message of encouragement to all. In the message, they invited all Christians and all men of good will to grit their teeth and continue to struggle to keep from dying at the hands of assassins. They feel it is the duty of the church hierarchy to say something about this matter and even to ask the government for an explanation of these many acts that are sowing mourning among Haitian families.

[Begin unidentified speaker recording] [Passage omitted] We ask the bishops to protest strongly and to go to the nation's authorities, the men leading the Haitian people, governing Haiti, and ask them if they are going to allow everyone in the country to be shot to death like this. We are certain that everyone knows who the people who have weapons are, because in a well-organized country, the police know who possesses weapons. [passage omitted] We are certain that, although today it is the community of (Fleuriot) that is being attacked, tomorrow it will be some other community, some other parish, some other chapel. [passage omitted] [end recording] [passage omitted]

PAIN Leader Dejoie Discusses Elections

FL2505172689 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network in Creole 1100 GMT 24 May 89

[Excerpts] [First announcer] Louis Dejoie II, leader of the PAIN [National Agricultural and Industrial Party], says that he will participate in elections even with bullets flying through the air. According to Dejoie, there is insecurity in only a few places.

[Second announcer] Talk of elections is beginning in Haiti. Several candidates have begun seeking formulas with which to mobilize people, through which to tune people in to their frequency, so to speak.

The PAIN, headed by Louis Dejoie II, has decided to effect its mobilization under the banner of what it calls sportism. Sportism is a philosophy based on the principles involved in sports, adhered to by sports teams—such as solidarity, discipline, team spirit, etc. The PAIN has adopted this and will mobilize people on the basis of this philosophy.

Thus, on the occasion of the inauguration of its new party headquarters on 3e Rue du Travail, PAIN announced that it is officially launching a mobilization for national development under the banner of sportism. [passage omitted]

At the PAIN news conference held on Tuesday 23 May, PAIN Secretary General Abel Leger officially opened the campaign, which consists of this sportsmen's movement for national development.

Louis Dejoie also announced that the PAIN is going to reopen, in the next few days, the 350 small political offices throughout Haiti that have been closed since the 29 November 1987 elections because of the climate of insecurity. Dejoie said he was going to run for office regardless! In fact, he will begin touring next week.

[Begin Dejoie recording] I am going to the elections regardless. We will not allow anyone to come and spoil these people's elections. The party, and not just myself, but I think the entire Haitian people will rise up. When it is time for elections we will tell them how to prevent another 29 November, because this time, if you feel that, as a native Haitian in his own land, it is up to you to protect your ballot, you know how you will keep watch over the polling place so as to prevent bums from again destroying it with either guns or machetes. [passage omitted] [end recording]

[Second announcer] Does this mean that Louis Dejoie II considers that insecurity no longer exists? Dejoie feels that there is insecurity only in Port-au-Prince and certain parts of Haiti, and he is not afraid of anyone?

[Begin Dejoie recording] If we are not given security we will take it ourselves, because it is time to put an end to this. [passage omitted] For me, insecurity does not mean I can't go to elections. After all, the people went out to vote in San Salvador with bullets flying! It is up to us to know what we want. Do we want change in Haiti? If we do, it can come about only through elections. [passage omitted] Therefore, the only way is to grit your teeth and sensitize the population to the fact that it must not allow macoutes to spoil the elections. [passage omitted]

This business of insecurity is simply two or three people being killed in Port-au-Prince, or the fact that two or three people's homes have been broken into in the boondocks. [end recording]

[Second announcer] The PAIN leader thinks there will be real political stability in Haiti only when there are only two or three well-established political parties in the country—and no more. However, here he is not referring to certain political parties backed by either the French or the Americans. He aimed this little dart at certain candidates who have shown clearly what foreign (?bloc) they are in.

According to Dejoie, the PAIN is one of these well-established parties. However, someone asked, during the news conference, if a political party that has for almost 2 years been unable to keep 350 offices operative in Haiti can claim that it is going to elections as the representative of an entire nation. Dejoie said that he had people behind him and that all the group leaders were still in place. [passage omitted]

[Begin Dejoie recording] [Passage omitted] Our partisans are present, the group leaders are present, and the organization exists. However, we are not officially open, so people can come and sit under the arbor, with people talking to the peasants, because I never know when a section chief might come and kick our butts [words indistinct]. [end recording]

[First announcer] The time is 0718. We must remind listeners of one tiny thing. PAIN leader Louis Dejoie II had announced, within the framework of the Democratic Bloc, that he would not participate in elections under General Avril.

Further on Dejoie Remarks

FL2505181589 Port-au-Prince Radio Nationale in Creole 1300 GMT 24 May 89

[Excerpts] Agronomist Louis Dejoie II, president of the National Agricultural and Industrial Party, and PAIN Secretary General Abel Leger held a news conference yesterday morning [23 May] at the PAIN's new headquarters on 3e Avenue du Travail. [Reporter] Jacob Virgil will give us more details of this news conference.

[Virgil] [Passage omitted] They held a news conference to define the party's position and to talk about the party's projects with a view to contributing to improving everything in Haiti. [passage omitted]

Regarding future elections, Mr Dejoie stressed that the members of the Permanent Electoral Council [CEP] must prepare an electoral law that is in conformity with the Constitution of 1987 that has been reinstated by the government of the 17 September 1988 movement.

[Begin Dejoie recording] If the electoral law is not in conformity with the Constitution of 1987 or does not refer to this Constitution, I do not think we will have sufficient guarantees for the people to go out once again to vote, (?risking) another 29 November massacre. The Constitution is our only compass. [end recording]

[Virgil] Dejoie said it is the responsibility of the government to ensure the transition to democracy in Haiti to find the path and the means to establish security in Haiti and punish the authors of violent crimes, so that massacres such as the one perpetrated on 29 November 1987 will not occur again in Haiti. [passage omitted]

[Begin Dejoie recording] [Passage omitted] This time we will not allow anyone to ruin the peoples' elections. [passage omitted] [end recording]

[Virgil] Dejoie added that with the cleanup that has been effected in the Army, the PAIN feels the macoutes will be less protected. He also said that the government must assume its responsibility to provide security in Haiti.

[Announcer] Well, for all these reasons, the PAIN will participate in the future elections in Haiti. The PAIN is asking for a lot of security, so that elections can unfold normally in Haiti. However, there is still, at present, a problem of insecurity in the capital and in all our provincial towns.

Dessalines Detectives To Turn In Weapons, Cards
FL2505190189 Port-au-Prince Radio Nationale in Creole 1300 GMT 24 May 89

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] Following the 19 May, 1989 communique from the Ministry of Interior and National Defense, the Port-au-Prince police have asked the first group of Dessalines Barracks detectives to bring in their cards and weapons that were issued by the Dessalines Barracks. The detectives are to bring these in to the police general headquarters on the Champ de Mars as soon as possible. The group is as follows: Belfort Daniel, Martino Fils, Guy Bouchereau, Richard Handal, Toussaint Delva, Jacques Saint-Louis, Yves Moreau, Antoine Emat Noel Pierre, Guerino Edouard, Gerard Michel, Roberson Chelusma, Wilfrid Pierre, Jean-Robert Zephyr, Enock Theogene, Serges Sejour, Joseph Chassagne, Roger Delatour, Jean-Robert Desime, Jean Ronald, Jean Edril Paul, Jean Saint-Louis, William Civil, Jean Gesner Edmond, Egalite Nelson, and Francis Lormil.

These, then, are the names of former Dessalines Barracks detectives, whom the Port-au-Prince police are asking to bring in without delay to police general headquarters on the Champ de Mars the weapons and cards in their possession. [passage omitted]

Journalists on 8th Day of Strike in Gonaives
FL2505213789 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network in Creole 1830 GMT 25 May 89

[Excerpts] In Gonaives, the journalists and press correspondents are still on strike. Yesterday was the 7th day of their news strike, which was declared by the Gonaives Journalists Association after journalists were manhandled during an incident last 17 May. In this incident, the vehicle of military officer Ely Jean hit and killed a young student. Afterward, the soldiers from the Toussaint Louverture Barracks went to the scene of the accident and, under the gaze of officer Ely Jean, struck the victim's (?relatives) and witnesses to the accident. [passage omitted]

The commander of the military department of the Artibonite, Colonel Dumarsais Romulus, has announced that an investigation into the incident will be conducted. He also said that he is willing to begin a dialogue with Gonaives journalists to resolve the situation. [passage omitted]

Press Views Rebus Letter, Other Topical Issues
FL2505212889 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1600 GMT 22 May 89

[Excerpts] The open letter from Colonel Himmler Rebus is on the front page of this week's editions of the weeklies HAITI OBSERVATEUR, HAITI EN MARCHE, and LE PETIT SAMEDI SOIR. In his letter, the former Haitian Armed Forces colonel, imprisoned in the United States with his colleagues Qualo and Biamby, commiserates with the civilian citizens imprisoned and persecuted since the aborted coup of which he was the principal author. This attitude on the part of the officers commanding the nation does not do them honor, writes Rebus.

Satisfied with the failed coup for several reasons—there will be elections within 4 years, the Army is going to be organized, and resumed U.S. aid to Haiti will be controlled—the former officers have announced the future publication of a book entitled "Success of a Failed Coup d'Etat" [Succes d'un Coup d'Etat Manque]; however, not until passions die down. This book announced by Himmler Rebus in his letter will cast light on the failed initiative and will serve as an explanation to the portion of the Army that was not informed that there was going to be a coup. Meanwhile, the three putschists are serving their sentences in New York, in the land of liberty, at the order of the State Department—in General Avril's prisons, LE PETIT SAMEDI SOIR says. [passage omitted]

Watch out, journalists! Danger! It is also LE PETIT SAMEDI SOIR that lifts the veil on a plan by the U.S. Embassy and the Avril government to deport certain members of the press who constitute threats to the government and to U.S. interests in Haiti. [passage omitted]

The weeklies comment on the military government's slight cabinet reshuffle. HAITI-PROGRES sees in this reshuffle a victory for the bourgeoisie, and a way for the general, buckling to U.S. pressure, to improve the image of his government, which the United States wants to present as capable of organizing democratic elections. [passage omitted]

The appointment of Gilles Hendrick Michel [name as heard] as head of the Office of Tourism is also commented by the weeklies published in the United States. HAITI-PROGRES and HAITI OBSERVATEUR talk about it, but it is HAITI EN MARCHE that makes a revelation about the new head of the Haitian Office of Tourism: Gilles Hendrick Michel is reportedly prohibited from entering [interdit de sejour] the United States. [passage omitted]

Two Expelled in Connection With Recent Coup
FL2505214989 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network in Creole 1830 GMT 25 May 89

[Text] There are a number of unofficial reports about the arrest and expulsion from Haiti of two Haitian citizens last weekend. According to reports we have, these two citizens had something to do with the failed coup d'etat of last 2 April.

L'UNION Director Accused of Corruption

FL2505190389 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network in Creole 1100 GMT 24 May 89

[Excerpts] Four technicians who headed the strike movement at the newpaper L'UNION during the month of April were fired last week. According to the technicians, they have all worked for the government newspaper for at least 10 years. They have been fired for denouncing the corruption that has existed at L'UNION during the 5 months that Max Abner Etienne has been the paper's director.

The technicians said the director has $26,000 per month with which to run the paper. However, employees aren't paid regularly. They claimed certain people got checks from the paper although they did not work for it. The technicians also denounced crooked wheeling and dealing by the paper's director, such as selling L'UNION letters of recommendation so that people can try to get visas.

Nothing ever came out of the different negotiations undertaken some time ago with the paper's administration. The technicians, who went on strike in April to demand their salaries, returned to work after 2 days at the request of the director's special adviser.

The workers said they will not accept being fired. They demanded that the general director resign. [passage omitted]

We were unable to interview L'UNION director, Etienne. However, according to the paper's administrator, the paper has laid off, for a good while, some 10 employees—technicians, watchmen, and journalists—because the budget is insufficient. [passage omitted] This official told us the paper had some 70 employees, and that it was the technicians who had suggested that some people be fired. However, they were the first to be fired.

According to a L'UNION official, there is surely a relation between the firing of the technicians and the problems they have had in the past with the paper's director.

Military To Probe Marchand Dessalines Incidents

FL2505214589 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network in Creole 1830 GMT 25 May 89

[Excerpt] The commander of the military department of the Artibonite, Colonel Dumarsais Romulus, has asked the commander of the military district of Saint-Marc for a detailed report on last 16 and 17 May's incidents in the 3d communal section of Marchand Dessalines. Col Romulus says that sanctions might be taken against a number of soldiers if the report he has asked for reveals that these soldiers did indeed set fire to peasants' houses in Marchand Dessalines. [passage omitted]

Salinas To Visit Europe, Venezuela in July
FL2505141189 Mexico City Red Nacional 13 Imevision Television in Spanish 1300 GMT 25 May 89

[Text] President Carlos Salinas de Gortari will pay a visit to Venezuela, France, and Spain in July. This will be the president's first trip abroad since his inauguration in December.

The president's first stop will be Venezuela, where he will be staying 10 and 11 July. President Salinas will spend 13 and 14 July in France, where he will participate in the festivities to celebrate the bicentennial of the French Revolution. Following this visit, the president will spend 2 days in Spain, where he will meet with Spanish Prime Minister Felipe Gonzalez.

The Mexican president might also be paying a visit to Colombia.

Ambassador to Panama Ends Consultations
FL2505145789 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 0349 GMT 25 May 89

[Text] Mexico City, 24 May (NOTIMEX)—The Foreign Secretariat has announced that Carlos Planck, Mexican ambassador to Panama, has returned to his post at the conclusion of the consultations for which he was recalled by the Mexican Government on 11 May.

The diplomat was instructed to return to Mexico to report on the Panamanian political and social situation following the 7 May elections.

The Mexican representative's return took place on the 2d day of work by the OAS commission that is in Panama to find ways that will lead to national conciliation and the solution of the political crisis in that country.

Planck's return to Panama refutes rumors heard in diplomatic circles according to which Planck had been removed from his post at his own request.

Navy Detains U.S. Boat for Illegal Fishing
FL2405163289 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 0232 GMT 19 May 89

[Text] Mexico City, 18 May (NOTIMEX)—The Mexican Navy today detained the "Juanita," a U.S. fishing boat, and its three-man crew for fishing illegally in Mexican territorial waters.

The Mexican Navy Secretariat said that the boat was caught off the coast of the northeastern Tamaulipas State.

It added that the crew, a Cuban and two Nicaraguans, were taken to the port of Tampico where they were handed over to the appropriate authorities.

The secretariat added that this is the fourth U.S. fishing boat stopped for fishing illegally in Mexican territorial waters in the past 4 months.

The Navy Secretariat added that in the past 4 months 104 Mexicans, 3 U.S. citizens, 18 Japanese, 2 Nicaraguans, and a Cuban have been arrested, and 17 boats seized for fishing illegally in Mexican waters.

Foreign Debt Repayment Figures Disclosed
PA2505224989 Mexico City UNOMASUNO in Spanish 19 May 89 p 15

[Summary] The chamber of deputies received a report that during the first quarter of 1989, Mexico paid $1.545 billion in principal and $1.893 billion in interest toward its foreign debt. The report adds that for that same period, according to the law on public debt, authorization was granted for contracting long-term debt that amounts to $3.93 billion for banking and parastate enterprises. The report also states that up to March 1989, $78,286.1 million was the balance remaining for the public sector's foreign debt—a drop of $2.717 billion compared to the December 1988 figure.

The public debt breakdown is 39.4 percent for the federal government, 33.9 percent for organizations and controlled enterprises, 23.4 percent for development banks, and the rest for entities not under budgetary control.

*** Short Experience in PRI Cited as Strength**
32480139 Mexico City PUNTO in Spanish 10 Apr 89 p 9

[Article by Salvador Rico]

[Text] A businessman who became involved in politics only 3 years ago—when, after consulting his friend Cuauhtemoc Cardenas, he agreed to run as the Institutional Revolutionary Party (PRI) candidate for a state congressman's seat in the now partially ousted government of Luis Martinez Villacana—Rodolfo Paniagua Alvarez was the only PRI candidate in Michoacan to triumph in the 1988 federal elections.

A federal deputy for one of the 13 electoral districts in Michoacan, Paniagua Alvarez, who sought the seat in San Lazaro after asking permission to relinquish his state legislator's seat, believes that, paradoxically, one of the leading reasons for his victory was the fact that he lacked a long career in the PRI and "is identified as an industrious man."

As a newcomer to politics, Paniagua won a victory which such veteran PRI figures as former governor Servando Chavez, former senator Norberto Mora Plancarte, and former federal deputy Rafael Ruiz Bejar (the coordinator of the Michoacan PRI bench in the preceding federal

legislature) were unable to win. They were beaten by the candidates of the National Democratic Front (FDN), who won the two Senate seats and 12 seats in the Chamber of Deputies.

Paniagua Alvarez, who had refused several times to run as the PRI candidate for the municipal presidency in Zamora, which is his birthplace and the city in which he developed as a businessman, said: "I believe that I won the state congressional seat and subsequently, the federal post, because the people now knew me, above all as an industrious man."

He says that in the last two elections in which he has participated, he found that "the people were very displeased with the PRI."

Respect and Friendship for Cardenas

Rodolfo Paniagua Alvarez, a man of 63, is now physically unable to meet his parliamentary responsibilities because he is under medical treatment for an infection where a prosthesis was attached to his left leg some years ago. He has had four operations in connection with this problem, and the doctors are debating whether he should receive medical care in Houston.

Paniagua Alvarez, who talked with PUNTO at his apartment in Colonia [urban community] Del Valle, appears to be a calm man to whom the grandiloquent aspect usual in not a few PRI figures is entirely alien. "People are tired of demagogy now," he commented. "One needs to talk simply."

He recalled that his main occupation for the greater part of his life "has simply been work." And so, he related with satisfaction, he began in the hardware business, then went into selling construction materials, and finally expanded his business activities to the hotel sector. He added that together with his sons, he established the Panal Group, which includes several enterprises in the branches mentioned.

As a businessman, the present-day legislator headed the delegation of the National Chamber of the Manufacturing Industry (Canacintra) in Zamora on two occasions.

He explained that as a result of his involvement in party politics, he has moved away from his business activities, leaving them in the hands of his sons. "It is necessary to devote full time to this," said this man, who makes fun of himself. "They unanimously elected me coordinator of the Michoacan PRI bench."

He explained why he decided to go into politics.

"Well, they had already invited me to run as a candidate for the municipal presidency of Zamora several times, but because of my business commitments, I could not accept. However, when they insisted that I run as a candidate for a state congressman's seat, I thought I could do something for the people. I asked Eng Cuauhtemoc Cardenas, with whom I had an excellent relationship when he was governor, what he thought. He told me that in his opinion, this would indeed be a good thing. And so it was."

About his relationship with the former presidential candidate of the FDN, Paniagua Alvarez said that it was a close one from the time Cardenas waged his electoral campaign as a gubernatorial candidate. The man who is a PRI legislator today contributed a light aircraft to that campaign.

Far from criticizing the administration of Cuauhtemoc Cardenas, Paniagua Alvarez said that during his state government, the man who is today the sponsor of the Party of the Democratic Revolution (PRD) "did everything he could" while he was in state government. He then went on to say that although he has not had occasion to deal with Cardenas again since the latter left the PRI, "I respect him and remain his friend.

"Our dealings," he added, "were always characterized by friendship and respect. When he left the PRI, he (Cardenas) did not invite me to participate in his new movement, nor did I attempt to approach him. We respect each other, as always."

Votes for the Individual

The former president of the Zamora Branch of the Canacintra, who admits that "in reality, I know very little about politics," recalled his first experiences after being nominated as a candidate for a state congressional seat.

"Even then, there had been dissatisfaction with the PRI. They did not even want to welcome us in a number of communities. They consistently told us that they were tired of candidates' promises which were never kept. But little by little, I began to win their confidence, mainly with the support of the people who already knew me, who know that I am industrious and that I come from a humble background."

Paniagua Alvarez, who says that as a businessman he is satisfied to provide 500 individuals with jobs, maintains that "this negative image of the party (PRI) developed because of the many failures and errors into which we must not lapse again."

He stated that on being elected a state congressman, "I spent as much time as I could with the people, pursuing the issues on which they asked me for my help." Parenthetically, he said that "despite his very poor image in Mexico City, Eng Martinez Villicana (who asked permission to resign as governor in order to accept the post of director of Federal Highways and Bridges) did indeed deal with the requests made to him."

Alvarez agrees that during his campaign as a candidate for a federal deputy's seat, anti-PRI feeling deepened. He commented:

"In my district (the fifth, which includes the municipalities of Zamora, Jacona, Tangamandapio, Chavinda, and Villamar), it happened again that many people voted for me because they knew me, not because they were PRI voters. There were people who said to me 'we are Cardenas supporters, and we will vote for Cuauhtemoc Cardenas, but we will also vote for you because we know you. It is not that we are voting for the PRI.' The people already knew us and had seen that we had responded with deeds."

However, he agrees that it was not easy for him to win, and he even noted that if the Mexican Socialist Party (PMS) had participated in this district along with the FDN, the Cardenas faction would have won.

He says that the PRI won 13,064 votes, the National Action Party (PAN) about 9,200, and the coalition including the Popular Socialist Party (PPS), the Authentic Party of the Mexican Revolution (PARM), and the Democratic Current (CD) approximately 12,600. "If the PMS had been included in this coalition, we would not have won even one deputy's seat," he noted.

The legislator says that in his first electoral experience, "it was not so bad" for his party, since of the 18 state congressional seats, the PRI won 12. The others went to the PAN (three), the Mexican Democratic Party (PDM) (one), the PARM (one), and the Party of the Cardenist Front for National Reconstruction (PFCRN) (one).

Recognition of Errors

Concerning the coming elections (2 July) for the state congress in Michoacan, Rodolfo Paniagua Alvarez says he is "confident that my party will elect good candidates, people who truly have roots, and that the error of imposing people no one knows will not be repeated."

According to this deputy, who is a member of the Grand Commission and the Finance, Craft and Heritage, and Industrial Development Commissions, the party must recognize its errors, and I believe that it is already beginning to do this."

He says that "in Michoacan, people are now beginning to regain confidence in the PRI, particularly when they see that the parties to the left are experiencing major splits."

He admits that "it would be very difficult for us to win all the seats today, but I believe that if good work is done, we can win the majority."

"Free of demagogy and with a great deal of work," he went on to say, "we have an opportunity to win the confidence of the people."

Paniagua Alvarez, who mentioned having accompanied Cuauhtemoc Cardenas on a trip he made to Japan as governor as another evidence of his excellent relations with him, insists that "everything depends on the candidate."

He also expressed the opinion that another factor which may contribute to a resurgence of PRI support in Michoacan is the presence of the special delegates of the CEN [National Executive Committee] of the PRI—Augusto Gomez Villanueva, a former leader of the National Peasant Confederation and former secretary of Agrarian Reform, and Francisco Merino Rabago, a former secretary of Agriculture and Water Resources.

He noted that "we must recover in these coming elections."

Zamora Mayor Rejects Support

Concerning his legislative work, Paniagua Alvarez says he hopes to return to it once he is physically recovered.

He commented that he has "cordial relations" with the 12 Cardenist deputies—Octavio Ortiz Melgarejo, Humberto Urquiza Marin, Lorenzo Martinez Gomez, Alfredo Torres Robledo, Francisco Curi Perez, Huber Gonzalez Jarillo, Hiram Rivera Teja, Raul Reyes Ramirez, Vicente Luis Coca Alvarez, Pablo Garcia, Isidro Aguilera Ortiz, and Rafael Melgoza Radillo.

The legislator said that despite the fact that he is under medical orders to rest, he is trying to pursue various undertakings which will benefit the residents of his district. "I believe," he said, "that I should take advantage of the fact that since I am the only PRI federal deputy for Michoacan, the departments respond to my requests promptly."

He added that, profiting further from the attention accorded him by government bodies, he offered his support to the mayor of Zamora, PAN member Arnulfo Vazquez Ramirez, but this support was refused.

"I do not know why," the PRI deputy said, "but the mayor is unwilling to accept support."

* Felix Gallardo Social, Business Roots Noted

32482104 Mexico City PROCESO in Spanish
No 650, 17 Apr 89 pp 6-10

[Article by Francisco Ortiz Pinchetti]

[Text] Culiacan—Miguel Angel Felix Gallardo, "the world's most wanted man," according to the PGR [Office of the Attorney General of the Republic], enjoyed total impunity for almost two decades, during which he prospered publicly as a businessman and gained prominence in Sinaloa's political and social circles.

Initiated into the drug traffic during the last years of the state government headed by Leopoldo Sanchez Celis, his friend, sponsor, and chief protector, Felix Gallardo's star rose steadily during the administrations headed by Alfredo Valdes Montoya and Alfonso G. Calderon and reached a zenith during Antonio Toledo Corro's 6-year term.

Able, astute, discreet, polished, and unusually austere, the drug trafficker became a dignitary of the state's social and economic life, and a friend of politicians at all levels of government, with connections in the worlds of business, agriculture, cattle raising, the press and even the University.

Until very recently, he was occasionally seen at social and cultural events. He threw noisy parties at his Bahia de Altata beach estate, sponsored weddings and baptisms, traveled freely, and met at fashionable restaurants with politicians, businessmen, and police officials.

And he was "the world's most wanted man."

The first warrant for his arrest goes back to 1971—18 years ago. Nine additional warrants have been issued since then. His illegal activities, his properties, and his whereabouts were known to everyone, but he was never arrested, indicted, or otherwise molested prior to being captured by the PGR on Saturday 8 April.

In 1979—because of "Operation Condor"—he changed his "permanent" residence to Guadalajara, but his stays in Sinaloa, and especially in Culiacan, were frequent, particularly during Toledo Corro's administration (1981-1986), and included his taking part, with total impunity and ever so much at ease, in social events covered by the local press.

"For 15 years," says Carmen Aida Guerra, society section editor of EL SOL DE SINALOA, "he has frequently sponsored weddings and baptisms. He has never objected to being photographed."

On Saturday 28 May 1983, Rodolfo Sanchez Duarte, son of former governor Sanchez Celis, married Theolenda Lopez Urrutia. The religious wedding ceremony took place in the Iglesia de la Sagrada Familia [Church of the Holy Family] in Culiacan, and was officiated by Auxiliary Bishop Humberto Velazquez Garay. Padrinos of the wedding [best-man and matron-of-honor functions plus start of a godparent-like relationship]: Miguel Angel Felix Gallardo and his wife, Maria Elvira.

The civil ceremony was held at the home of the bride, in the colonia [urban community] of Las Quintas, with Silvia Lopez de Logan, head of the Civil Registry, officiating. The groom's witnesses were Miguel Angel Felix Gallardo, Jose Luis Felix Gallardo, Lieutenant Salvador Guerrero Lopez, Jaime Sanchez Duarte, and Tomas Sahapopulos. The wedding banquet took place in the Centro Social Chaplin [Chaplin Club], one of Culiacan's most exclusive. It was enlivened by mariachi singer Perla and the Meza Brothers Orchestra, and lasted until 6 a.m. Sunday 29th.

It was at this social event—amply reported and commented by EL SOL DE SINALOA on Monday 30 May 1983—that the photograph was taken showing the newlyweds together with Sanchez Celis and Felix Gallardo, who at that time was already one of Mexico's drug barons.

A further attestation of his public presence in Culiacan is provided by the photograph published on 15 January 1985—barely 3 months after the arrest of Rafael Caro Quintero—showing him flanked by his partner and protege Rodolfo Sanchez Duarte, and by Patricio Estolano Kuroda, as he cut the ceremonial ribbon to inaugurate one of his business enterprises—Grupo Crisol—in the automotive field.

The Inmobiliaria Delia company, seized by the PGR in connection with Felix Gallardo's arrest, was founded by the drug-trafficker in 1976, when the state governor was Alfonso G. Calderon.

The business firm was recorded in the Public Property Registry as of 30 November of that year, with an initial capital of 5 million pesos. Registration 127, Book 123 states that the firm's articles of incorporation were filed with Notary Public Oscar Lopez Castro. Miguel Angel Felix Gallardo, his brothers Justino, Jose Luis and Francisco, and his wife Maria Elvira Murillo de Felix are listed as the shareholders.

Felix Gallardo, who contributed 60 percent of the company's starting capital (3 million pesos), stated for the record that he is Mexican, a native of Culiacan, 30 years of age, and a businessman, domiciled at Calle Presa de Boquilla 1084, colonia Las Quintas.

On 30 June 1977, Registration 996, Book V shows the company's first acquisition: A piece of urban property measuring 142 square meters, bought from Compania Oriental Fraccionadora for 64,000 pesos. And Proceeding 745/80, of 19 March 1980, records a capital increase to 20 million pesos and refers to Calle Rosales 378 as the address of the company's head office.

According to an investigation by the daily NOROESTE, the real estate holding company Inmobiliaria Delia acquired, in 13 years, 25 urban pieces of land in Culiacan, totaling 3,000 square meters.

Those holdings include an entire block located at one of the city's main intersections—Madero and Obregon—diagonally opposite the Hotel Executivo. Located at one corner of that property are the offices of Inmobiliaria Delia, which were legally seized and sealed by the PGR, assisted by the army, during the operation carried out last weekend.

From 'Varillero' to 'Capo'

Miguel Felix Gallardo was born in Bellavista, a settlement in the outskirts of Culiacan, just 5 km from this capital, in 1946. His father, Ramon Felix, farmer, and his mother, Tina Gallardo, had migrated there years before from the village of Pericos by way of Mocorito, to work as laborers on Don Chuy Tamayo's farm.

The Felix Gallardos had nine children, all born in Bellavista. Hard working people that they were, they ended up buying the house and part of the land of Tamayo's farm. When Ramon and Tina separated, Tina remained as owner of the farm with nine children.

Miguel Angel received his primary education at Bellavista's little schoolhouse. He then attended academic high school, and subsequently Webster's, a commercial school.

Those who knew him then remember him as a serious-minded, quick-witted youngster, a hard worker since early childhood, who quickly manifested commercial talents. He began as a "varillero," a peddler who travels from ranch to ranch with a supply of fabrics, threads, buttons, plastic toys, colored ribbons, etc. With the proceeds of his sales he would buy cheeses and chickens from the farmers, and bring them to the city to sell. He also operated a modest tire shop in Bellavista.

In 1966, having barely reached the age of 20, he was enrolled in the State Judicial Police as an agent and assigned to the state government house where he worked as Governor Leopoldo Sanchez Celis' children's bodyguard. He soon became one of the governor's right-hand men. This was the beginning of the friendship between them.

Shortly afterwards, Felix Gallardo was introduced to the drug traffic, which was beginning to flourish in Sinaloa. He started out as an aide of Eduardo Fernandez—Don Lalo—the capo at that time, today old and retired. Felix Gallardo's business talents enabled him to rise meteorically, protected, moreover, by powerful friends. It was as a result of this that in 1976 he was able to form his real estate holding company and start acquiring real estate.

No one had touched him during Valdes Montoya's administration (1969-1974) and no one touched him during Calderon's (1975-1980). As an early associate of Ernesto Fonseca—Don Neto—Felix Gallardo was a key man in the organization's rapid growth. As its head of "public relations," his business talents and general background served him well. He learned to move around in the upper atmospheres of the political and business worlds. As a widower—his first wife, Medina, died very young of leukemia—he married Maria Elvira Murillo, who helped him open doors in Culiacan's social world as well.

As a capo, Felix Gallardo's style differed radically from that of Don Neto, Caro Quintero and others. The key to his success in narcopolitical circles had been his discretion. Polished in manner, well dressed, he never boasted of his wealth. Unlike the others, he never wore expensive watches, gold chains and bangles. He avoided scandal and moved about very discerningly.

Operation Condor, which was being carried out during President Jose Lopez Portillo's Administration, compelled the heads of the drug traffic to leave Sinaloa and restructure their organization, which by that time had already spread to various states of the republic. Felix Gallardo, like Don Neto and Caro Quintero, moved then to Guadalajara, the capital of Jalisco, which the drug lords soon made their center of operations. From there, they continued, with impunity, controlling the drug traffic in Sinaloa, Sonora, Chihuahua, Tamaulipas and other centers.

And Felix Gallardo became a banker. In 1979, in Chihuahua, he was appointed a director on the board of Banco Mexicano Somex, which was headed at the time by Mario Ramon Beteta.

Miguel Angel Matas Martinez, the former regional manager of Somex in Chihuahua, stated, when interviewed by PROCESO reporter Fernando Ortega Pizarro, that Felix Gallardo and Tomas Valles Corral—another drug trafficker—were "large shareholders and prominent clients" of that banking institution. He explained that both had been appointed directors by Banco Mexicano Somex's Board of Directors, which invariably meets in Mexico City. As of 1982 at least, both were still directors (PROCESO No. 439).

Powerful Friends

Among "la clica" [barons of the drug underworld], Felix Gallardo had a reputation as being astute and intelligent, opposed to violence, but inflexible and stingy. Bellavista's inhabitants complain that, despite his wealth, he never helped the people.

Maria Elena Felix Gallardo, the youngest of the nine offspring, says to PROCESO: "Miguel Angel was always a polite, thoughtful, decent person. He was very withdrawn. He was always wonderful to me. I adore him. He's my flesh and blood."

Interviewed at her home, at the corner of Isla Socorro and Calzada Sinaloa, colonia Las Quintas, she spoke irately at first, then sobbingly: "They've invented a lot of stories about him, vile ones. We come from a decent family, a well-established one. We're not country bumpkins. My mother had to fend alone with nine children and went on tilling the soil to give us a good education."

As for the crimes attributed to her brother, Maria Elena claims to know nothing: "I care nothing about that. It has nothing to do with me. He lives his own life. I have nothing to hide, nor any reason to run away. I have committed no crime. If they want to arrest me, I'm here. But don't let them touch my children."

A beautician, married to her second husband, she insists on the honorableness of her family. "We were proud of our family name. We thought Felix Gallardo was a very beautiful combination."

She asserts that Miguel Angel "always lived here, in Culiacan, until 3 years ago," but says she stopped seeing him long before then. The house she lives in was bought 20 years ago, she says, adding that her mother once lived there but has been living in Guadalajara for the last 4 years.

"I never knew anything about Miguel Angel's activities. All I can tell you is this: Let him that is without sin cast the first stone."

She knows whereof she speaks: Many, but very many, are those who, for the past two decades, have been involved with Felix Gallardo and his business dealings, have been associated with him, have protected him, and have permitted him to do as he did.

Felix Gallardo strengthened his grip as capo, paradoxically, during the years of Operation Condor (1975-1978). Carlos Aguilar Garza was, at that time, coordinator of the PGR's campaign against the drug traffic in Sinaloa. He filled the jails with peasants accused of planting marijuana on their parcels of land. But no capo was ever arrested.

Samuel Alba Leyva was the assistant attorney general under Attorney General Oscar Flores Sanchez. It was Alba Leyva who appointed Aguilar Garza. The latter is now assigned to Tamaulipas.

Not only here. In June 1981, the third-district judge in Tijuana, Jose Angel Morales Ibarra, issued a warrant for Felix Gallardo's arrest. The accused appeared voluntarily before the judge, who ordered his imprisonment. Before the expiration of the 72-hour period stipulated by law, Felix Gallardo was released. The assistant attorney general assigned to the court, Alfredo Islas, did not appeal the writ of release.

Never, however, was the impunity enjoyed by Felix Gallardo as obvious as during Antonio Toledo Corro's 6-year term as governor of Sinaloa. This view is shared by Lawyer Norma Corona, president of Sinaloa's Commission for the Defense of Human Rights, former PRI [Institutional Revolutionary Party] lawmaker and head of the "Francisco I. Madero" National Political Association, Enrique Pena Batiz, and former PAN [National Action Party] presidential candidate Manuel J. Clouthier.

During Toledo Corro's years as governor, Felix Gallardo would actually meet publicly with officials and former officials of the administration, appeared on the society pages of newspapers, held parties at his Altata beach house—parties that were attended even by high-ranking police officials—had Judicial Police agents as bodyguards, and entered into new business deals.

He ate frequently at the Chipps seafood restaurant on Boulevard Emiliano Zapata. He even went so far as to donate publicly 1 million pesos to the library of the UAS [Autonomous University of Sinaloa], whose rector was Jorge Medina Viedas, today a member of the PRI.

"That was undoubtedly the period during which his influence was most felt here," says lawyer Corona.

"Everybody knew it here, everyone talked about it," says Clouthier. "Even the 15-year old kids knew where he lived, who he was. Just as they continue knowing where other drug traffickers live and who they are. Felix Gallardo was seen in many places. No one touched him. And this is not the first time I've said this. I denounced his impunity throughout my campaign as candidate for governor. I shouted it a thousand times. No one paid any attention."

Pena Batiz, for his part, says that throughout Toledo's 6-year term Felix Gallardo grew and grew. "He rubbed elbows with those at the highest social and political levels. Why did they do nothing against him? Because drug traffic money reaches up to the very high, but extremely high, levels of the PRG: The dollars gush upwards in torrents."

Pena Batiz, who is also a former president of the Federation of People's Parties—which backed Miguel Henriquez Guzman as candidate for president in 1952—considers that Felix Gallardo was the key man in relations between the drug traffic and the politicians. He had occasion, he says, to witness this for himself towards the end of Toledo Corro's term, at this city's airport:

"I was waiting to board a plane when Felix Gallardo arrived. He was accompanied by 5 or 6 bodyguards, ever so cool and pleased with himself. As he passed by me, I heard one of his "guaruras" ["goons"] tell him: 'There's a detachment of soldiers in Limon de los Ramos' (near Culiacan). Felix Gallardo didn't blink an eye. 'It's already been taken care of,' he said."

Norma Corona says:

"Other persons must be investigated who, occupying positions as responsible authorities, provided protection to one who was publicly identified as a drug trafficker and for whose arrest a warrant had been issued. Former governor Toledo Corro is a case in point."

Toledo Corro was identified by the U.S. DEA [Drug Enforcement Administration] and other U.S. institutions as being involved in the drug traffic. Included in a list published by our neighbor country's antidrug agency, were several officials of Toledo's Administration—among them: Atalo de la Rocha, head of Coformin, and Roberto Robles Rendon, head of the State Judicial Police. Both were eventually relieved of their positions, but Robles Rendon is to this day one of Toledo Corro's personal bodyguards.

In April 1985, in the face of insistent accusations, the governor formally requested of the prosecutor, Sergio Garcia Ramirez—as Sanchez Celis also did—that he himself be investigated. Whether such an investigation was ever carried out, or the results if ever it was, have never been made known.

Other minor officials of Toledo Corro's administration, also accused, will not be able to be investigated. Captain Jose Lozano Calva, chief of the State Judicial Police, died on 4 July 1983, when the small plane in which he was traveling to Guadalajara crashed—or was blown up. The version published by EXCELSIOR—that this plane was owned by Felix Gallardo—was never denied. Ceferino Ojeda Ojeda, chief of the Culiacan Municipal Police, and Lupe Leyva, Municipal Police chief of investigations, also died, shot to death. El Chato Rodriguez, who had been the State Judicial Police chief of investi-

gations, and was subsequently one of Toledo Corro's bodyguards, was riddled with bullets—more than 70—in Mazatlan last year.

The New Capos

The people of Culiacan—once past the fright of the ostentatiously carried out 8-9 April military operation—laugh at the diligence with which the PGR agents have pinpointed, broken into and searched, then sealed various buildings owned by Felix Gallardo and his co-defendants. These buildings include three located in Calle Presa de Boquilla, in the colonia of Las Quintas, one of which the capo himself had claimed to be his residence when he registered his real estate holding company Delia in 1976.

This reporter visited others of his properties, which until Friday 14th had not been the object of any judicial action whatever. One of these is the Felix Gallardo parents home, the old hacienda in Bellavista, now converted into a kind of museum.

It is a big rambling turn-of-the-century home, renovated and well cared for, in the center of a parcel of land measuring about 1 hectare. An archway surrounded by grill work, painted white, serves as the facade of the porch. The house forms a quadrangle around a central garden with a manicured lawn and a fountain. The interior hallway features an antique Ford automobile, a collector's item, in impeccable condition. Near the entrance is an very old empty trunk, on top of which stands an enameled, multicolored wooden horse. A rudimentary telephone hangs on one wall, and an oil painting of Saint Michael the Archangel, signed by J.J. Parrech, hangs on another.

In front, a photomural shows a handsome country home—presumably on one of Felix Gallardo's ranches—with cattle to one side and a helicopter flanking the other.

The dining room, living room and bedrooms have antique furniture, well cared for. An old radio adorns the recreation room, which is dominated by a large mirror.

Adjacent to the large house is a stable, now empty, and close to it the house that used to be occupied by the guard. The entire property is surrounded by a chain link fence 2 and ½ meters high, with padlocked gates. No one lives there: The caretaker "resigned" and left as soon as he learned of Felix Gallardo's arrest.

At Bahia de Altata, some 60 km west of Culiacan, on a piece of land measuring some 3,000 square meters, stands the beach house of the man who until Saturday 8th was "the world's most wanted man." The house is a square building, made entirely of wood, with red metal-clad hipped roofs, and is surrounded by gardens, in which there is, on the beach side, a "figure-8" swimming pool and a wading pool.

It is a pleasant, agreeable home, perfectly kept, and not especially showy. Inside there are 4 bedrooms, 2 baths, and a recreation room with bar and billiard table. The walls are entirely lined with mahogany, the bar with upholstered leather, and the furniture is of rattan, in good taste. There is no interior decoration other than a lithograph in blue tones with figures of horses, a Quijote watercolor, and a mirror. The bookshelves and cabinets are empty, except the one that contains the billiard balls. In the bedrooms, the beds are made up, perfectly clean, covered with bedspreads. In one bathroom, a fresh, unused bar of Palmolive soap. There was also an old hand organ.

Everything is neat, as if it had been tidied up that very morning. The lawn, as if it had been mowed yesterday; the house, as if painted yesterday; the pool, as if scrubbed and filled with clean water yesterday.

No one keeps house any longer, either.

This property once belonged to Jesus Beltran, one of the richest men in Culiacan. It has belonged to Felix Gallardo for at least the last 7 years. The neighbors say that, occasionally, the capo held well-attended parties in the house, with loud bass-drum music. No one recalls having seen him in the vicinity during the past 3 years, but the house was occupied from time to time by friends of his, to whom he would lend it. This was the case recently, during Holy Week.

And the crowning detail: Felix Gallardo's beach house is just three properties away from, on the same beach as, the state government guest house...

Miguel Angel Felix Gallardo has fallen, but the business continues. New capos, products of his same mold, indeed his own people, remain at large, untouched. The two principal ones—as everyone here knows—are Ismael Zambada, [alias] El Mayo, and Baltazar Diaz, [alias] El Balta. They too have homes in Las Quintas and the colonia of Chapultepec. This too is common knowledge here.

Around the middle of December 1988, 4 months ago, one of El Mayo's daughters married one of El Balta's sons. The wedding took place on a Friday at 8 p.m. in the Church of the Sacred Heart. It was officiated by the bishop of Culiacan, Luis Rojas Mena, assisted by Canon Manuel Vega Orejel, the parish priest. Press photographers were denied admission.

The party lasted 3 days. Two refrigerator-trailers packed with U.S. beer were brought in. It took place in the El Melon ranch, near Culiacancito. The guests—among them, Fernando Garcia Felix, coordinator of the state security plan, who is now a fugitive—blocked the road with their automobiles. Police officers, prompt and officious, helped and watched over them. And everyone was happy.

Costa Rica

Arias Comments on Increased U.S. Aid

PA2405211789 San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 1200 GMT 23 May 89

[Text] U.S. aid for Costa Rica has been increased to $90 million next year. According to a conversation between Costa Rican President Oscar Arias and U.S. congressmen, U.S. aid for Costa Rica will increase by $33 million in 1990.

It had been announced that U.S. aid for Costa Rica would be reduced to $57 million, but the Arias government presented an investment plan that received positive responses from subcommittees of the U.S. Senate and House of Representatives. The United States was going to give just $57 million to Costa Rica through the Agency for International Development, but that amount was considered too harsh a blow on a country that has been making efforts to improve its general situation.

The plan presented by the Arias administration to the U.S. congressmen stated that part of the U.S. aid would be used to repurchase foreign debt.

President Arias, who had not received a confirmed report as of last night, stated that Costa Rica would be the first country to receive aid from the United States to repurchase part of its foreign debt.

It was proposed that $20 million would be used to repurchase foreign debt and the remaining $70 million would be used to [word indistinct] the balance of payments.

President Oscar Arias described the increase in U.S. aid for our country as a demonstration of the U.S. Congress' willingness to help Costa Rica during difficult times. President Arias reiterated that Costa Rica would become the first country to receive aid to repurchase its foreign debt and expressed the country's gratitude to the U.S. Government for its support and solidarity.

Arias stressed, however, that the U.S. aid would be delivered to our country in mid-1990, which means Arias' successor will receive these funds.

El Salvador

Communique on Rebel Transportation Stoppage

PA2605002189 San Salvador Radio Cadena Sonora in Spanish 1300 GMT 25 May 89

[Communique issued by the Armed Forces Press Committee—date and place not given]

[Text] With its announced transportation stoppage, the FMLN [Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front] seeks to continue the war against its own people by using machineguns to murder people exerting great effort in trying to get to their workplaces to earn a living. Thus, it is clear that the war the FMLN is carrying out is not against ARENA [Nationalist Republican Alliance], but against the civilian population. This must be condemned by the so-called humanitarian organizations, because it is a serious violation of human rights.

The Salvadoran Armed Forces reiterates its unyielding decision to protect the lives and goods of all the Salvadoran people in view of this new terrorist attack. We will increase our land and air patrol operations to guarantee the safety of the honest and hardworking population.

Foreign Minister Announces Quayle's Visit

PA2505232689 San Salvador Canal Seis Television in Spanish 0200 GMT 24 May 89

[Report by Carlos Armando Rivera]

[Text] The Salvadoran Foreign Ministry today announced that U.S. Vice President Dan Quayle will visit Central America next month and meet with President-elect Alfredo Cristiani. Foreign Minister Ricardo Acevedo Peralta stated that Quayle's visit may take place on 10 June to discuss Central American agreements, contra demobilization, and respect for human rights in the area.

[Begin Acevedo recording] I feel this visit is important because U.S. backing is always important. The Bush Administration's show of interest in the region is commendable. I believe the visit is a good step for El Salvador and that Vice President Quayle is coming to meet with us to continue the struggle to consolidate democracy and Salvadorans' fundamental rights. [end recording]

The foreign minister announced U.S. Vice President Quayle's visit during a meeting with Legislative Assembly deputies to brief them on the border problem with Honduras. Since 1961, El Salvador and Honduras have been involved in a dispute over 450 square kilometers along the border and 33 islands in the Golfo de Fonseca. Acevedo Peralta told the Legislative Assembly of the claims El Salvador made at the International Court of Justice.

[Begin Acevedo recording] As you know, our administration is coming to an end. Therefore, the major government organizations dealing with national policy and security must be appraised of our actions concerning the delicate border issue. The Foreign Ministry and I, as foreign minister, are obligated to brief these government organizations. [end recording]

On foreign policy, Acevedo Peralta continued to criticize Manuel Antonio Noriega's stay in Panama, and urged political resolution through the OAS, not through a U.S. military intervention.

FDR's Ungo on ARENA, Alliance With FMLN

PA2505152489 San Salvador Canal Seis Television in Spanish 0200 GMT 24 May 89

[Interview with Guillermo Manuel Ungo, member of the Democratic Convergence and Revolutionary Democratic Front (FDR) and leader of the National Revolutionary Movement, by unidentified reporter; date and place not given—recorded]

[Text] [Reporter] Dr Ungo, what will the FMLN-FDR's [Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front-Revolutionary Democratic Front] strategy be after ARENA [Nationalist Republican Aliance] takes power?

[Ungo] We plan to step up our political activity in the country through our parties, that is, the National Revolutionary Movement and the Democratic Convergence. The FMLN-FDR alliance will continue to exist, because it reflects our resolve to reach a political and democratic solution. We will continue to try to create conditions that will lead to a political solution through dialogue and negotiation.

[Reporter] What is your opinion on statements by Foreign Minister Acevedo that the FMLN is isolated because the FDR has joined the democratic process in El Salvador?

[Ungo] That is a self-serving statement; it is untrue. First, the FDR as a whole has not joined political life in the country; two FDR member parties did. The FDR does not enjoy an operational or functional existence. The FDR exists in the countryside because of the daily charges leveled against us by the press, Coprefa [Armed Forces Press Committee], and certain military leaders.

They have distorted the true nature of FDR actions to depict the FDR as an armed organization, which it never has been. FMLN armed actions are attributed to both the FMLN and FDR. This is a distortion of the truth. This is why Foreign Minister Acevedo's statement is inaccurate. I think that the matter is not black or white. The administration's international image has deteriorated and weakened. The FMLN has lost and gained points in the belligerent eyes of the international public. There have been positive and negative aspects.

About 10 days ago, I visited Canada, Italy, Washington, and New York. In New York, I met with the FMLN delegation—including Commander Luisa, Salvador Samayoa, and Dr Varela—which was on its way back to Mexico. They had participated in meetings at the United Nations with ambassadors from governments that will be part of a military verification commission called for by the Esquipulas II agreement. This gives the FMLN considerable legitimacy and representation at the international level.

I believe that the situation is very complex, because ARENA will soon take power. Many international governments—which have said that they have not and will not break diplomatic relations with the new government—will visit in the next few days. They plan to maintain those relations. However, this does mean that they are not very concerned over the fate of El Salvador and ARENA's political behavior. This genuine concern is based on ARENA's previous political behavior.

This concern is most evident in Europe. I attended an Italian Socialist Party congress, which was also attended by many high-level European representatives, all of whom—because of their past experience with fascism in Italy and Europe in general—have a very negative feeling and are very worried about an ARENA government in El Salvador.

Rebels Killed in Clashes in Morazan Department

PA2605040789 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSU in Spanish 1300 GMT 25 May 89

[Text] According to a report released this morning by the Salvadoran Armed Forces Press Committee [Coprefa], 12 Salvadoran rebels were killed and 20 others were wounded in recent clashes.

According to the report, the rebels were killed or wounded in clashes against Military Detachment No 4 troops. The clashes took place in Morazan Department and mainly in the towns of Osicala, San Simon, and El Cobo Canton.

Coprefa reported that over the past few hours Navy units dismantled a guerrilla camp located at El Cobo Canton, Jucuaran Jurisdiction, Usulutan Department.

Coprefa added that two minors were seriously wounded yesterday when Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front urban commandos destroyed two power towers at Altos del Boulevard neighborhood in the eastern end of San Salvador. Coprefa stated that as a result of that attack, eight private homes were seriously damaged.

Guatemala

Cerezo on Massacre of Peasants, Coup Attempt

FL2505210489 Guatemala City Teleonce Television in Spanish 0400 GMT 24 May 89

[Report on news conference held by President Vinicio Cerezo Arevalo with unidentified reporters at the Presidential Palace at noon on 23 May 1989]

[Text] President Vinicio Cerezo has commented on the latest massacre in Chimaltenango, which took place 6 months after the mass murder of 22 peasants in the village of El Aguacate.

[Begin Cerezo recording] The Guatemalan Government did not attack these persons; a group of guerrillas did, and we are trying to track them down. Events increasingly demonstrate that some guerrilla groups are getting desperate, and that this is leading them to take actions against the people. We have to do whatever is possible to provide security throughout the country. These actions must be condemned. We hope to obtain international support and to show that it is useless and ridiculous to wage an armed struggle in Guatemala, where everyone is allowed to participate peacefully. [end recording]

The president refused to give the name of a presidential hopeful who, according to Defense Minister General Hector Gramajo, had been chosen to head the government that would have been created if the 9 May coup attempt had been successful.

[Begin recording] [Cerezo] We prefer to keep all of these details confidential because a legal process is under way. Giving names or statements might affect the judicial investigation under way, so we are not going to mention any names.

[Reporter] What about the money that was reportedly given to the coup plotters? Can you cite an amount?

[Cerezo] Several figures have been mentioned. What is clear, however, is that the coup plotters seem to have found a modus vivendi. They are obviously receiving money from somewhere to promote this type of activity. This is sad: Some people are doling out money, and others—particularly the country—are being affected by the type of activity they promote. At this time we prefer not to provide any details about the trial or the charges because this would hinder the criminal investigation, as well as the judicial process. We would like to maintain a calm atmosphere so that the judge can issue a well-thoughtout ruling.

[Reporter] Colonel Gordillo has a theory. He believes that the attempted coup was a pretext to enable you to get rid of all of the officers who disagreed with your government. He also believes that the officers who are no longer with the army are forming a separate military organization.

[Cerezo] That is outrageous. The two ideas are outrageous. As I said the other day, how can anyone claim that to surround the minister's house with troops, halt traffic, and everything else was a mere attempt to provide a pretext? No one can claim that this was done to provide a pretext or anything of the sort. Everything took place in the streets. The people of Guatemala and the representatives of the media saw what was going on: The minister's relatives were held against their will, and so forth.

Anyone who tries to claim that this coup attempt was invented by the government is merely trying to deflect responsibility away from the perpetrators of the coup. [end recording]

Region's Foreign Ministers' Meeting Postponed

FL2505144089 Guatemala City EL GRAFICO in Spanish 24 May 89 p 4

[Text] The meeting of the Central American foreign ministers (Esquipulas II Executive Commission), scheduled to be held in Guatemala on 8 and 9 June, has been postponed.

Even though the decision was made in light of Guatemala Foreign Minister Mario Palencia's commitments to the OAS special commission, President Cerezo was not advised of the decision until yesterday.

When asked about this, President Cerezo said he had no information despite the fact that the Guatemala Foreign Ministry had issued an official communique announcing the postponement of the meeting. Furthermore, President Cerezo said that he had not been advised that the meeting had been postponed.

According to the Foreign Ministry, before leaving for Panama to carry out an important mission together with the foreign ministers of Ecuador and Trinidad and Tobago, Foreign Minister Palencia called the Central American foreign ministers to inform them of the postponement.

The Foreign Ministry said that the date for the next meeting has not been set; however, it did not dismiss the possibility that this important meeting will be held sometime in June. The meeting would be held prior to the Central American presidential summit scheduled to be held in Honduras as was agreed on during the meeting in Santa Tecla, El Salvador [as published] in February.

URNG Declaration Repudiates U.S. 'Aggression'

FL2505161089 Guatemala City PRENSA LIBRE in Spanish 24 May 89 p 3

["Declaration of Solidarity with the Panamanian People and in Repudiation of U.S. Aggression" issued by the Guatemalan National Revolutionary Unity General Command in Guatemala on 15 May 1989]

[Text] The long and infamous aggression by the latest U.S. Governments against the sovereignty, self-determination, and survival of the Panamanian people and the Republic of Panama, has in the past few weeks reached unprecedented, unspeakable, and extremely serious levels.

The virulence of the political, diplomatic, propagandistic, and military aggression heightens day by day. It is a strategy conceived to isolate and discredit the Panamanian Government. With manipulation and disinformation, an appropriate environment is created for an ensuing step that could be a direct intervention by U.S. troops.

Starting with the most absolute disregard for the basic principles of international law, the U.S. intervention has promoted confrontation and chaos in the Panamanian nation, making this one of the most serious situations in contemporary history.

In light of these facts, and with the utmost urgency and responsibility, the Guatemalan National Revolutionary Unity [URNG] General Command most emphatically denounces and condemns before the Guatemalan people and the world, all attempts of destabilization, aggression, and interference in the domestic affairs of Panama.

In doing so, the URNG also wishes to stress the risks that a passive acceptance of this U.S. interventionist policy represents for Latin America. As of this moment, and now that the U.S. Government is attempting to become supreme judge of the domestic situation of every country, there is no nation or regime that can be safe from straight-out intervention.

The policy of intervention and aggression practiced by the new U.S. Administration is a real threat to the peace and sovereignty of the continent. By threatening and insulting Panama's sovereignty, the United States is attacking the present and future of all the Latin American countries.

Therefore, the General Command calls on all the Latin American political forces to speak up and condemn this unspeakable action, and the URNG joins the voices of those who have already done so.

Institutionality cannot be defended with intervention and it is unacceptable to blame the situation on General Manuel Antonio Noriega, commander in chief of the Panama Defense Forces [FDP], to hide the real reason, which is to disregard the Torrijos-Carter treaties.

In this crucial hour, the URNG General Command expresses and reiterates its total and combatant solidarity with the Panamanian people, the FDP, the National Liberation Coalition (COLINA), and all the Panamanian popular organizations that at this moment are waging a legitimate and decisive struggle for national sovereignty and against U.S. intervention.

The Panamanian people represent the voice and will of America's dignity, therefore, they deserve the respect and support of all the free men of the continent.

The Guatemalan people and their revolutionary movement, the URNG, are willing to fight until the final consequences to support the Panamanian people as best they can.

Today we proclaim our solidarity and identify with the Panamanian people. We hereby state our determination to fight beside them and confront, as necessary, the U.S. aggression and intervention.
URNG General Command

Commander Rolando Moran
Commander Gaspar Ilom
Commander Pablo Monsanto
Carlos Gonzalez, secretary general of the PGT [Guatemalan Labor Party]
Guatemala, 15 May 1989

* Foreign Debt Seen Bankrupting Nation

32480140B Guatemala City PRENSA LIBRE in Spanish 25 Apr 89 p 4

[Text] According to statements made by opposition political leaders, Guatemala's foreign debt, totaling $3 billion, is one of the factors that could lead the country into financial bankruptcy and abject poverty.

The economist and deputy, Juan Carlos Simons, remarks that this problem is affecting the majority of Latin American countries, and that some international agencies have changed the view that they held about 15 years ago, when they favored, in particular, countries with governments that were growing through public spending and embarking on monstrous financial ventures.

Simons adds that the effects of corruption and increasing impoverishment caused by this indiscriminate impoverishment have prompted these international agencies to act cautiously now, and to offer recommendations for putting the economies of the nations concerned on a sound footing internally.

He stressed that, in the case of Guatemala, we have a foreign debt of $3 billion, approximately 50 percent of which is associated with the Bank of Guatemala, according to data from the end of 1988.

Simons added: "The rate of indebtedness in the present government, which mistakenly placed its hopes in external financial support, is disturbing." The economist described as critical the fact that 38 percent of the value of exports is equivalent to the 1988 debt service, and that the ratio between the debt balance and the GDP is also 38 percent.

The congressman emphasized that the $469.2 million in foreign debt service for 1988 is in contrast to the expectations for a relative reduction in exports that are also still beset with bureaucratic obstacles and ridiculous taxes which, instead of stimulating, are hampering and discouraging.

"In 1985 exports totaled $1,191.3 million, whereas in 1988 the volume was $1.248 million, which cannot be considered a satisfactory increase considering the fact that they underwent a reduction in 1986 and 1987, compared with the 1985 exports."

Deputy Simons also commented that the foreign debt policy poses another problem from a psychological standpoint. He stressed: "They are trying to convince us that development depends on loans and donations, and this has proven quite the contrary everywhere else in the world.

"We have a wonderful country, and what it needs is a change in the system, whereby our resources would be used to the maximum and incentives would be given for external funds, but in the form of private investment, not aid."

Simons concluded by saying: "The disproportionate debt is impoverishing and degrading, but, unfortunately, it is a policy that is consistent with incapable, corrupt, demagogic governments."

Hector Luna Troccoli, chairman of the economics commission in the Congress of the Republic, for his part, underscored the fact that, although the foreign debt has been inherited from previous governments, loans must be better controlled.

He said that the foreign debt is a serious problem affecting Latin America as a whole, and hence the government should stimulate production and exports, to prevent the flow of borrowed money.

Honduras

Azcona Answers Ortega on Contras, Summit

FL2505204989 Tegucigalpa Voz de Honduras Network in Spanish 1820 GMT 25 May 89

[Letter sent by President Jose Azcona to Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega; date and place not given —read by reporter Marco Tulio Jimenez]

[Text] Your Excellency, president and friend:

I am honored to answer your letter dated yesterday, 15 May, in which you urge me to ratify the joint demobilization plan for the members of the Nicaraguan Resistance [RN].

When we met in Costa del Sol, El Salvador, and signed a joint declaration, one of the points we agreed on was to draft a joint plan within a 90-day period for the demobilization and relocation of the members of the RN and their families. We then set 15 May as the deadline for the drafting and approval of the plan. This deadline would also coincide with a new meeting of the Central American presidents to be held in Honduras on 13 and 14 May 1989. The plan was drafted by the commission formed by foreign ministers and we are currently studying it to be ratified at a later date.

As to the request you made in yesterday's telex regarding the ratification of the joint plan, I feel that the approval of the plan must be the result of an agreement among all the Central American presidents.

Allow me to stress that we are obviously interested in holding the presidential summit as soon as possible to analyze the contents of the Costa del Sol document. I pledge to urge the other presidents to hold the meeting in June. My government is willing and firmly determined to abide by the agreements signed in the hopes of guaranteeing a stable peace in Central America that will allow us to put forth our best efforts in searching for a solution to the pressing socioeconomic problems that are affecting our peoples and which will only be possible along the path of peace and democracy.
With fraternal greetings,
Jose Azcona
Constitutional President of the Republic of Honduras

Nicaragua

Reportage on U.S. Diplomats Expulsion, Strike

Accused of 'Destabilizing'

PA2505174389 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1730 GMT 25 May 89

[Text] Managua, 25 May (ACAN-EFE)—Two U.S. diplomats will be expelled by Nicaragua today, accused of carrying out "destabilizing activities," because yesterday they participated in a meeting of teachers who were planning a strike.

Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega made the decision this morning. John Leonard, the U.S. charge d'affaires, will very shortly be notified of this decision by Foreign Minister Miguel D'Escoto, Nicaraguan diplomatic sources told ACAN-EFE.

An official source told the press that those being expelled are the chief of labor affairs for Central America, headquartered in Tegucigalpa, and the chief of the economic section in Managua. The source did not provide the names.

Further on Expected Expulsion

PA2505175889 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 1738 GMT 25 May 89

[Text] A last-minute report from the Foreign Ministry indicates that two U.S. Embassy officials are going to be expelled from the country because of their meddling in the country's domestic affairs. These two officials were seen in Chinandega yesterday during a teachers' assembly, trying to manipulate the Nicaraguan teachers' position on the labor dispute.

It has also been reported that John Leonard, U.S. charge d'affaires in Managua, has been called to the Foreign Ministry to respond to charges regarding the actions of (Catherine Williams Davidson), who is the U.S. official in charge of labor affairs for Central America but who is in the country without accreditation. She was also seen trying to manipulate the situation concerning the Nicaraguan teachers.

D'Escoto on Expulsion

PA2505222589 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1943 GMT 25 May 89

[News conference by Foreign Minister Miguel D'Escoto with unidentified local and foreign reporters at the Foreign Ministry in Managua—live]

[Text] [D'Escoto] We [5-second reception break] the United States in Nicaragua [16-second reception break] of the [word indistinct] decision [49-second reception break]; in other words, it is a case [11-second reception break] in the destabilization and for harming governments such as that of Nicaragua, which insists on being treated with respect.

We just met with U.S. Embassy Charge d'Affairs John Leonard and delivered a note to him in which we explained the situation of Mrs Kathleen Barnow and Joel Cassman. The latter is the U.S. Embassy second secretary, in charge of the trade and economic section. Mrs Kathleen Barnow is the charge d'affairs at the U.S. Embassy in Tegucigalpa. She was in Nicaragua on a visit. They participated in the Confederation of Trade Union Unity [CUS] assembly in the Chinandega Department. They arrived in Chinandega at 0940 yesterday. We have the names of those with whom they met there. We may not have the names of all the people with whom they met, but we have the names of many of them. I have the names of at least 14 people with whom the U.S. officials met. We also have information about the topics discussed during their conversations.

Those people's basic purpose was to use CUS to foster disturbances and protests against the Nicaraguan Government's economic measures, which are extremely strong measures the Nicaraguan Government was forced to adopt to save the Nicaraguan economy, which has been seriously harmed by the empire's policy of 8 years of war against our people.

The purpose behind the disturbances and chaos these people are trying to encourage in Nicaragua is not only to frustrate the recovery of the national economy but also to prevent the normal progress of Nicaragua's election process, which will culminate with the 25 February general elections.

The U.S. officials told the people with whom they met in Chinandega that those people must maintain and unite their organization and that the U.S. officials would support their efforts. At a certain point, the U.S. officials said they could not guarantee any aid directly from the Agency for International Development [AID] but that AID was not the only source of financial support, that they had other means to guarantee adequate and timely aid for those organizations—as long as those organizations began to show success in their goal, which was to create chaos and promote street disturbances and confrontations protesting the government's economic measures.

The entire world has applauded the economic measures adopted by the Nicaraguan Government, because it was the right thing to do. Nicaragua adopted those measures to adapt to and correct the economic situation. The entire world has also expressed admiration for the Nicaraguan people's maturity, patriotism, and wisdom. The Nicaraguan people understand very well the causes and reasons for the adoption of the economic measures.

The measures are strong, and those who for over 8 years have been determined to destabilize and overthrow the Nicaraguan Government—which was democratically elected by the people—continue determined in their goal, although they are using new means now. However, we cannot say they did not try to infiltrate labor unions and cause problems in those organizations in the past.

Under the current situation, we felt it was absolutely necessary to adopt clear, firm, categoric, and strong measures, which is why we have declared Joel Cassman and the woman who came from Honduras as personae non grata. We revoked that woman's visa and are issuing a warning that regardless of who violates Nicaraguan law, Nicaragua retains its right to apply the measures contemplated in the [4-second reception break] international law and in our own territory.

When I explained all this to Mr Leonard, he told me...[changes thought] he denied that, and said the embassy knew nothing about this. I told him I was not saying the embassy was [word indistinct]; the problem was not whether or not it had intervened. We are not saying this was done following direct instructions from Washington; this might have been something out of someone's initiative. The fact is that it happened, and that we must proceed. He is now denying it. That is all right; they always deny things. They all deny things. It is the same story with this war, this war that has been strongly condemned by the international community. This is a war of systematic [word indistinct] and the [word indistinct] of everything that has been approved is true.

He told me the international community was going to react in a very surprising manner, because it is said that every time there is a problem in Nicaragua, we take it out on the United States. I told him: On the contrary; the international community observes that every time there is a problem, their people are right in the middle, and there are photographs. He told me he regretted it and that he would deny it when he left my office. I do not know if he even said that in Spanish or not. He only spoke in English. He did not want to address the people of Nicaragua. At any rate, he told me he was going to deny it.

I told him that I never expected him to admit this; I was sure he would deny any crime or violation had been committed. He told me he would just say that but that it was evident there would be some response from the United States soon. I told him I knew that, but I wanted him to be absolutely clear and aware that here in Nicaragua, we are going to continue taking the necessary

measures to defend our sovereignty and independence, and we are going to continue always accepting the consequences of that patriotic attitude. They have not been able to intimidate us, and they will not do this in the future.

I also told him that I regretted the situation, that there had not been a direct accusation of any authority, and that we would continue trying to achieve a normalization of relations with the United States. I asked him to please stop posing as a victim. The poor United States, the victims of this monster, Nicaragua, which violates all norms and laws and tries to oust the U.S. Government! He should not be so ridiculous as to appear before our media and the international media and pose as a victim. If there is someone who has been a victim of one of the most inhumane policies ever to have been rejected and condemned in history, it is Nicaragua, which has been the victim of this U.S policy ever since the victory of our revolution, or since the moment Mr Reagan became President. He tried to deny us our rights to sovereignty and independence and exert pressure on us with various measures to see if we would yield. That is the reality, and I think this should serve as a lesson for any other country that might feel at any time inclined to intervene in the domestic affairs of Nicaragua. There are laws and rights, and anyone violating this will have to accept the consequences.

[Reporter] [Words indistinct] passing money in Chinandega [words indistinct]?

[D'Escoto] I do not know who said that; I did not. The only thing I said about money is that we mentioned the subject and that some help had been promised. I do not know exactly what channel would be used. At one time, it was said it would not be done through AID, because AID had no programs or something like that. However, if the groups began to demonstrate they were able to assume the required tasks, they would receive financial support.

[Reporter] [Words indistinct] consider like the continuation of the plan or is this another one?

[D'Escoto] I would not say that, but it is a continuation of what we were expecting—we were expecting it to conclude. When Mr Bush became President, we made this unilateral gesture of goodwill. Everything has proven we were too optimistic. These people are extremely stubborn; they insist on acting as if they were the masters of the world, ignoring all norms of rights and violating all solemn international commitments they have signed, including the Vienna Convention, the UN Charter, and so forth.

[Moderator] Will the comrades who are going to ask questions please identify the media you are working for, and we will do this in an orderly fashion.

[Reporter] [Words indistinct] do we know if the U.S. Government might consider [words indistinct] of Nicaragua?

[D'Escoto] There has not been any answer, so how am I going to consider it? I have nothing to consider. I do not what the answer is. [Words indistinct].

[Reporter, in English] [Words indistinct] what do you think [words indistinct]?

[D'Escoto, in English] I am not sure, but what I can tell you for certain is that we are not going to be intimidated by the fact that they are so powerful, and we are not yet going to allow them to do whatever they...

[Announcer, interrupting] This is a news conference by Foreign Minister Father Miguel D'Escoto Brockman. We want to emphasize what the foreign minister explained, and we want to add something else to this. Mrs Kathleen Williamson Barnow met on the afternoon of 23 May with Roberto Molino of the Central Organization of Trade Union Action and Unity, Carlos Huembes, and (Miguel Paramos). Yesterday, she met with Javier Altamirano of CUS, (Melania de Chamorro), Juan Flores Obando, Alonso Mejia, Aristides Morales, and the Corinto Port stevedores. She later directly participated in Chinandega in the activities of the teachers and was there with the other U.S. official. In Leon, she met with Sebastian Poveda; the so-called poet Alonso, who is the correspondent of the Somozist National Guard newspaper; and (Colonel Icaza). This morning, she met with Lino Hernandez and was scheduled to meet this afternoon with Gilberto Cuadras. At 1515, she was to meet with Alejandro Solorzano and later planned to go to Region 5 and El Rama.

Let us listen to Foreign Minister Miguel D'Escoto Brockman, who is now speaking in Spanish:

[D'Escoto, in progress] ...these two persons. We have this information and have been able to [words indistinct]. I do not know about the famous place; otherwise, we would have already tried to [word indistinct].

[Reporter] How soon will these persons have to leave?

[D'Escoto] The woman, who is accredited in Honduras, has 48 hours; Mr Cassman has 72 hours.

[Reporter, in English] [Words indistinct]?

[Announcer] The world's media has given broad coverage to the Nicaraguan Government's decision to expel these two U.S. officials for meddling in Nicaragua's domestic affairs. This is not the first time some people abuse their diplomatic status by meddling in Nicaragua's domestic affairs and promoting destabilization in Nicaragua. Foreign Minister D'Escoto is speaking in English. Later, there certainly will be more questions in Spanish.

[D'Escoto, in English, in progress] ...a very, very difficult measure that our Government has been obliged to take in order to revitalize the economy that has been greatly,

greatly hurt as a result of 8 years of imperialist aggression. And the other purpose was also to create [words indistinct] and to make progress in this electoral process that will culminate in a general election next February 25th, next year.

And so we want to make it clear at this very point that regardless of what the consequences, in Nicaragua, the government is absolutely resolved to get foreigners in general—but also, and particularly, foreign diplomats—to observe the national law and the Vienna Convention and not to intrude itself in internal political affairs and not to try to foment disturbances, which is what these two individuals were doing. The one Kathleen Barnow is the naval attache in Honduras. She is not even a diplomat here in Nicaragua. She came I think, only about 5 days ago, and there she is in the midst of this convention in Chinandega, where the situation is becoming complicated. The other man I think is one of those who also came recently. He is the second secretary in charge of economic and commercial relations.

[Announcer, interrupting] This is Radio Sandino at the Nicaraguan Foreign Ministry. Foreign Minister Miguel D'Escoto Brockman is now speaking in English about the expulsion of two U.S. diplomats for meddling in the domestic affairs of Nicaragua.

Education Minister on Strike

PA2505202289 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1200 GMT 24 May 89

[Text] Education Minister Fernando Cardenal has analyzed the teachers' situation after meeting with teachers in the 3d Region.

At the end of a meeting at the Alecio Blandon Teachers School, we questioned Father Fernando Cardenal about reports in the Somozist Guard's daily newspaper concerning a large teachers strike.

[Begin recording] [Cardenal] They are all working. Of course, all we can expect from LA PRENSA is exaggeration, distortion, and occasionally lies—total lies. We know of one school in Managua that went on strike this afternoon—in which not even all teachers took part—and one in San Rafael del Sur, in Managua Department. In addition, there have been attempts to strike in Chinandega and El Viejo, but there has been complete calm in the rest of the country. Therefore, it is an exaggeration to say that Nicaraguan teachers are on strike.

I want to take this opportunity to express our appreciation to the thousands of teachers who have continued working despite the problems we have had in 1984, 1986, 1988, and in the current year. It is also important to bear in mind that this conflict may have arisen from confusion as to whether this month's 8-percent increase was a solution to the issue of the reassessment of positions. However, the problem is no longer the salaries. It is a political problem. The right wing has seized on it so it can become active everywhere. The question here is no longer salaries, but confrontation. Some are taking the side of the counterrevolution—taking the side of those who bring in dollars to cause problems in Nicaragua.

In a revolutionary country like Nicaragua, a strike is not the right way to solve a problem. In a capitalist country, an owner only loses his grip on money as a result of a strike or pressure.

Here, President Ortega has said very clearly that nobody can expect a salary hike at this time because we are trying to curb a big scourge: inflation. However, there cannot be pressure. The question here is not lack of sensitivity. The question here is that we must keep enforcing wise and prudent economic measures. Nothing and no one will pressure us into violating these measures, because the well-being of all of us depends on them.

Therefore, this strike, which may have been innocently declared by teachers who were feeling the pinch of the economic crisis, has now become a full political confrontation. We must not allow anyone to manipulate us. We must know where the interests of our homeland and people lie. [end recording]

Central Bank Devalues Cordoba 6.7 Percent

PA2505170489 Managua Radio Catolica in Spanish 1230 GMT 25 May 89

[Text] The new official price of the U.S. dollar is 7,900 cordobas. It went up 6.7 percent on orders from the Central Bank. In exchange houses, the purchase price of the U.S. dollar is 8,500 cordobas, while in the diplomatic stores located around the exchange houses the price is 10,600 cordobas.

Ortega Urges Azcona on Contra Demobilization

PA2505201389 Managua BARRICADA in Spanish 24 May 89 p 6

[Text] Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega said yesterday that it is unfair for the Honduran Government now to try to disavow the International Court of Justice's [ICJ] jurisdiction when in other cases its rulings have favored Honduras. He added that the correct attitude would be to work in good faith to support the plan to demobilize, repatriate, or relocate the contras who are now in its territory.

After presenting the credentials accrediting him as the new Honduran ambassador to Nicaragua, Jose Mario Maldonado made use of the principle of reciprocity to demand the withdrawal of Nicaragua's suit at the ICJ against Honduras for violating judicial order by permitting the existence [on its territory] of irregular forces seeking to overthrow a legitimate government.

Maldonado said that his government is invoking the Costa del Sol presidential agreement, which states that all pending disputes should be solved in the area. However, President Ortega reminded the press that during the summit it was also stated that none of the presidents would levy conditions on the withdrawal of the contras from Honduran territory or compliance with other commitments.

Ambassador Maldonado, who was promoted to lieutenant colonel in 1974, rejected a statement by the UN secretary general to the effect that Honduras is delaying the creation of a group of observers for Central America. Maldonado stated that "my government has requested international verification; however, we condition that to the dismantling of the contras, as one thing is linked to the other." (?) [question mark as published]

Without clarifying his statement, Maldonado said that "the situation of violence in other countries in the area makes Honduras look like the problem country." He added that there are no political prisoners in Honduras, and there are no Honduran exiles in other countries. When asked to comment on a statement by the International Verification and Follow-up Commission for the Esquipulas Agreements, he said that "it was a temporary" situation. [as published]

President Ortega described Maldonado as an open-minded person who clearly understands the need to find a solution to the problems in the area, particularly between Honduras and Nicaragua. Up to now, only [Honduran] President [Jose] Azcona has replied to the Nicaraguan president's call to ratify the plan for the demobilization of the contras before the next presidential summit, for which a date has yet to be determined.

Ortega delivered to Ambassador Maldonado a letter for President Azcona Hoyo "so we can work together in the near future toward seeking prompt implementation of the plan for the demobilization of the contras, because although it was a commitment assumed by the five Central American presidents, Honduras and Nicaragua are the most interested in compliance."

Finally, President Ortega said that in the domestic field, political parties must submit names for the Supreme Electoral Council before the deadline, stressing that the process will continue and there will be no extensions.

Politicians Comment on Candidates for CSE

PA2605034189 Managua Sistema Sandinista Television Network in Spanish 0200 GMT 25 May 89

[Text] In political circles, the names of possible candidates for the Supreme Electoral Council [CSE] are still being shuffled. The political parties have not yet determined their tickets for the CSE, which should be established by early June.

Among the names being shuffled for the CSE are: Dr Emilio Alvarez Montalvan, Enrique Bolanos, Cardinal Miguel Obando y Bravo, and Moises Hassan. What do the political parties think about these individuals?

[Begin recording] [Dr Edwin Illescas of the Democratic Conservative Party of Nicaragua] Any of the people who have been mentioned, namely, Cardinal Obando y Bravo, Dr Alvarez Montalvan, Dr Pasos Arguello, and [name indistinct] have sufficient virtue and merit in the eyes of the Nicaraguans; they are excellent and credible people. I believe they would do a good job.

[Reporter] Of those people, who do you prefer?

[Illescas] Monsignor Obando y Bravo and Dr Alvarez Montalvan are acceptable candidates, because they would give significant credibility to the opposition. [end recording]

The CSE will also be made up of two tickets for the Sandinist Front for National Liberation and two tickets for the opposition. Apparently, the opposition has not reached a consensus on its ticket.

[Begin recording] [Reporter] Dr Moncada, has your party presented a ticket for the CSE?

[Dr Alfonso Moncada of the Independent Liberal Party for National Unity—PLIUN] We are in the process of making a final decision on our participation in the electoral process. If we decide to participate on Sunday, 28 May, we would definitely have to select a ticket at that very moment.

[Unidentified speaker] The Democratic Conservative Party has not yet made a decision with regard to its ticket. It might submit a ticket on an individual basis, as a member of an alliance, or through various groups.

[Second Unidentified speaker] This means that the 15 parties of our coalition would be presenting a single ticket, a group ticket. [end recording]

Guzman stated that he does not know when the ticket will be submitted, because this hinges on certain political issues that have not yet been resolved.

[Begin recording] [Dr Luis Humberto Guzman of the Popular Social Christian Party] All political parties, including our party, must be concerned about submitting a ticket. Now, since they have failed to come up with a single ticket, I believe the time has come for each party to submit tickets of their own. [end recording]

PSD Leaders To Arrive in Country 11 June

PA2505161989 Managua Radio Catolica in Spanish 1130 GMT 24 May 89

[Text] Social Democratic Party [PSD] leaders Alfredo Cesar, Pedro Joaquin Chamorro, and others will arrive in the country next month.

We have statements by PSD leader Adolfo Jarquin.

[Begin Jarquin recording] Well, I wanted to say the following: Alfredo Cesar and members of the organization that used to be called Opposition Bloc of the South [Bloque Opositor del Sur] will come to the country on 11 June. On the same day, Dr Luis Rivas Leiva, Pedro Joaquin Chamorro, and other members of the PSD who are in exile will arrive in Nicaragua. Former members of the Nicaraguan Democratic Movement [MDN] led by Roberto Urroz will also be coming. Some MDN members joined the PSD, and others have asked for legal status for the MDN. We expect to have a big welcome for our fellow Social Democrats. We have been able to work with them, and we have been able to get them to join the civic political struggle. We have done all this within the framework of Esquipulas II and especially of the declaration of presidents in El Salvador. We believe the political struggle should take place here in Nicaragua. Within the framework of the 1990 elections, we have taken the necessary steps to unite the Social Democratic family. [end recording]

Social Christians Reach Consensus in Opposition

PA2605042089 Managua Radio Catolica in Spanish 1130 GMT 25 May 89

[Text] The various Social Christian parties have decided to submit electoral formulas within the opposition unity. The consensus reached by Nicaraguan Social Christian parties has apparently ended attempts to go to the elections separately from the opposition unity.

It is believed that with this alliance, the Social Christian Party headed by Erick Ramirez will no longer oppose granting legal status to the Christian Democratic Party headed by Engineer Agustin Jarquin or the Social Christian Unity Party headed by Dr Eduardo Rivas Gasteazoro.

The unity agreement signed by the various Social Christian Party factions reads as follows:

Unity Agreement:

We, Nicaraguan political leaders, in representation of organizations inspired by Christian principles agree to the following:

1. Establishment of a coordinating group, which, through joint actions, will promote restoration in Nicaragua of the basic principles of full respect for human dignity, supremacy of common good, and improvement of civilian society.

2. The coordinating group is to be made up of a delegation of each member organization and is designed to merge all organizations into a single structure.

3. This coordination responds to the need for united concerted efforts by the entire Nicaragua civic opposition to promote the establishment of a democratic option that will be the authentic reflection of the Nicaraguan people's will.

4. The coordinating group will present within the framework of the opposition unity electoral formulas at all levels and a political project of Christian inspiration that is also democratic and participative to solve the national crisis.

5. The coordinating group is empowered to establish the necessary commissions and structures to achieve the objectives listed here.

6. The coordination group demands that the Sandinist regime fully respect the political parties' full right to obtain their legal recognition and urges the Supreme Electoral Council to grant legal status to all parties to which it has been denied.

7. The coordinating group calls on the Nicaraguan people to get organized for the elections to defeat the dictatorship of the Sandinist Front for National Liberation through civic means.

This agreement is signed in honor of Engineer Jose Napoleon Duarte, president of the Republic of El Salvador, leader of the continental Christian Democracy, and forger of the Central American democratization process.

Issued in Guatemala, cradle of the Esquipulas II accord, on 23 May 1989.

Adan Fletes Valle for the Christian Democratic Party; Dr Duilio Baltodano Mayorga for the Social Christian Unity Party headed by Dr Eduardo Rivas Gasteazoro; Erick Ramirez Benavente for the Social Christian Party, PSC; and Mauricio Diaz Davila for the Popular Social Christian Party

We support and sign this unity agreement in representation of the Nicaraguan Social Christian Party in exile:

Dr Roberto Ferrey and Jose Davila

INE To Repair Pylons Destroyed by Contras

PA2505235789 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1200 GMT 23 May 89

[Text] The INE [National Institute of Energy] management in the fifth region, corresponding to Boaco and Chontales, will, during the remainder of this year, repair 35 high-tension metal pylons that were destroyed by the contras in 1983, which has affected electrical power customers.

Hector Blanco, INE manager in that region, has stated that 120 69,000-volt secondary electric power transmission line towers and approximately 90 light posts will also be replaced this year. The INE will spend 2 billion cordobas and $500,000 [mixed currencies as heard] on this work.

Panama

Noriega Discusses Current Political Crisis

PA2605033389 Panama City Telecinco Television in Spanish 0126 GMT 26 May 89

[Report on interview with Panama Defense Forces Commander General Manuel Antonio Noriega by Stella Calone; date and place not given; recorded—questions and answers read by two unidentified announcers]

[Text] [Question] General Noriega, what is your country's situation in view of the arrival of specialized U.S. troops and sophisticated warlike materiel in the Canal Zone as a sign of what you call a limited invasion?

[Noriega] We must consider two facts in the relations between Panama and the United States during 1989. We must also consider the events that took place in 1987.

Panama has very specific memories of the U.S. presence here since the birth of our Republic. Each time U.S. interests take priority over U.S. options, the United States chooses the use of force. [sentence as heard]

For example, we must recall that in the 1920's, U.S. troops entered Panama through Chiriqui Province on the border with Costa Rica to supposedly defend a U.S. cattleman and his men who lived on a farm in Chiriqui and who claimed to be threatened. The U.S. troops remained in that area for 6 years.

We have frequently seen that kind of intervention. Those interventions were carried out by taking advantage of various Panamanian domestic problems, such as the Tenants Uprising in 1925 or the events that took place in 1964, when 23 Panamanian youths paid with their lives in their attempt to hoist the Panamanian flag in Panamanian territory.

Panamanians have a clear perspective of those kinds of events. Every time the United States wants to maintain its imperialistic interests, it uses force as a means of submission and dissuasion. The present aggression is linked to U.S. interests, because the United States wants Panama to remain in U.S. hands. The United States wants to extend its military presence in Panama beyond the year 2000 in view of the U.S. geopolitical and strategic interests of which everybody is aware. That is the truth.

[Question] Could you be more precise regarding those geopolitical and strategic interests?

[Noriega] An interoceanic canal in Latin America built with old-fashioned means tends to become increasingly obsolete. The canal needs new technology to adapt itself to modern, commercial navigation. The 74,000 square km of Panamanian territory [occupied by the Canal Zone] are, however, a strategic position regarding North and South America, the Pacific and the Atlantic coasts of our continent, and the Caribbean region. Those 74,000 square km become a point of political and strategic importance for an empire that needs to dominate and control areas that form a very important experimental triangle [triangulo experimental] in Washington's future plans.

[Question] Why did a number of U.S. congressmen approve the Torrijos-Carter treaties in 1977 while now a group of congressmen support an abrogation of those treaties and the continuation of U.S. presence in the Canal Zone? Why did the latter position strengthen in the last few years?

[Noriega] There is a logical premise, a simple mathematical problem. We knew that as 1999 drew closer, the various U.S. Administrations would try anything to maintain the U.S. military presence in Panama. We know those efforts would conflict with our position and would go against the position of a people that is tired of an overwhelming U.S. military presence that has been in our country since before 1903. U.S. military men were in our territory during the construction of the transcontinental railroad.

As I said before, it is logical that U.S. expansionist interests entered into an increasingly open conflict with the determination of a country that wishes to recover its sovereignty at the end of the 20th century and rejects any colonial or neocolonial status.

Therefore, as the time of the decolonization process—which has been carried out in phases because the United States only agreed to that process if it was carried out in phases—draws near, the problem has worsened. The year 1989 is a key time, because this year a Panamanian citizen must become the Canal administrator, which is the highest post in the supervision of the Canal. To prevent that, the United States needs a docile government in Panama and a ductile armed forces deprived of nationalism, so when the year 2000 arrives, the United States would be in control of the situation.

Geopolitical plans are made every 10 years. That is why the United States has begun its violence and aggression against Panama in this decade.

John Poindexter was the first messenger sent by this leviathan to Panama. Poindexter was sent by former U.S. President Reagan, and he came to demand that Panama participate in a crazy adventure against Nicaragua. He came to demand that Panama become the spearhead of the attack. When we said no, we knew our decision would place everything at risk.

[Question] Is the excessive U.S. military presence in Panama related to the confrontation with Poindexter or with the decision the United States made to abide by the Torrijos-Carter treaties?

[Noriega] It has to do with both. As I said, we knew we placed everything we had at risk. The aggression is now manifested through an exaggerated concentration of troops—when there is no war here and when there has never been an attack against or an abduction of a U.S. citizen. We have never carried out violent actions against the United States here. There is no war here. We are a basically pacifist, not a warmongering country. The excessive presence of troops is an aggression not only against the Panamanian people but against Latin America as a whole. The exaggerated concentration of idle troops, who in 2 years have not found their alleged war, is causing serious problems for the United States in the Canal Zone. They are facing social problems such as the ones the U.S. Southern Command's TROPIC TIMES newspaper notes.

They are also facing a number of contradictions. The wild disinformation on which the United States mistakingly bases its analysis—including analysis by its top military and civilian leaders—has led them to fabricate false schemes that force them to choose regrettable paths along which the empire's arrogance has chosen to crash its planes and war vehicles in a small country such as Panama to maintain a critical point of aggression.

Aggression is not only physical action but also terrible and continuous hostility. Aggression includes continuous harassment, threats, and arrogant provocation aimed at defenseless and humble people living in a small country.

As in 1964, when they invaded us and we were the victims of their attack, we have ended up being the aggressors. They represent a predetermined criminal irony [predeterminada ironia criminal].

[Question] Gen Noriega, you constantly speak about psychological warfare and about your being a main objective in that kind of war.

[Noriega] Yes. I speak of psychological warfare because it exists and because that kind of war is being implemented now more than ever. It became intense when efforts to keep the School of the Americas in the Canal Zone failed. That failure was perhaps the first signal they received that the Panama Defense Forces [FDP], identifying themselves with what the Panamanian people wanted, was going to strictly abide by what is established in the Torrijos-Carter treaties. All this is a result of the simplistic kind of logic they utilize when they decide to fight against a country or against an ideological or patriotic cause.

Their current aggression includes efforts to destroy the image and moral values of popular leaders and to downgrade worthy causes at the international level.

This kind of action is as old as the world. All the Latin American countries have gone through that. The war against nationalist ideals has existed since the days of the Indians under the Spanish Crown. The war that calls for the destruction of reputations and for calling patriotic people bandits is part of the dirty game's rules.

[Question] General, what could happen from a military point of view if the United States decides to invade Panama?

[Noriega] It is a fact that a limited invasion has already taken place, although they have equipment they would not be able to use in a war against Panama. We and they both know that an invasion in the civilian areas of Panama could have unforeseeable repercussions and uncontrollable consequences. They must especially consider that an action of this nature involves elements they cannot control, not even with computers, and that it also involves Central and South American nations, because actions in such a sensitive area as Panama have unforeseeable derivations.

I would say the United States has much to lose and very little to gain. Unfortunately, they cling to obsessive ideas, which leads them into errors and to the inability to successfully conduct the low- or medium-intensity warfare programs they have in some countries.

Something must be clearly understood: In Panama, the FDP evolved under Torrijos. The FDP has a particular nature; it is no longer an armed force that conducts lazy war games in barracks, shines shoes, and exhibits uniforms at military parades. This is an armed force that indentifies itself with the poor people, with the ethnic minorities of blacks and Indians we have here. The FDP talks with labor unions and participates in the country's development plans. This makes us different.

Poindexter said it plainly: You are a bad example to the other Latin American military people.

In addition to this, they know that we, with our virtues and our errors, represent a nationalist wall against their intention to maintain colonialism. If anyone wants to be fooled by the disinformation campaign and chooses to believe Noriega is the sole objective of this war, let him;

but if a country believes it is geographically safe from domination plans and from the kind of war we are enduring, that country is mistaken and will be open to an uncertain future of submission.

[Question] The stage for the war has been mounted. Some countries point to you as the cause of the problem. What can happen in this very complex and difficult framework in which you are operating? Is there any danger that commandos could try to kidnap or murder you?

[Noriega] Whatever is being said does not matter. What matters is the truth, the true situation. Whoever plays a part in a dirty game could become the victim of such games in the future. Regarding U.S. decisions, anything is possible. I also know commandos could act against me; we have foreseen that. It is a risk we have to run, but they also run that risk.

It makes me sad whenever I think about U.S. mothers who face many risks. I see how soldiers board planes as they are bid farewell in the United States, and the Charlies and the Johnnies come to Panama to fight—except there is no war here; only a short distance away from where the U.S. troops have their camps, Panamanians dance and have fun. I think about the mothers of the Charlies and the Johnnies, about their wondering why their children have to die in a country that has done them no harm—just because someone wrapped by disinformation has decided that this is the way it has to be.

A small nation such as ours can be razed, but I repeat: He who plays with fire inevitably gets burned.

We hope reason will prevail and solutions are found, but we know the future of Latin America is being decided in Panama. I also want to remind some people who are pointing their fingers at me about the days when they sought out good ol' Noriega to act as mediator when they had serious problems in their countries—as happened in the case of the daughter of President Jose Napoleon Duarte, who sought my intervention so she could be released by liberationist forces that had kidnapped her.

They often sought my mediation. Then Noriega was good; Noriega was responsible because duty was put before his personal interest. However, now when they are pressured by the empire, they act as if nothing ever happened. I am only saying no one can deprive us from the right to defend our sovereignty and our future at the cost of our life or of how many lives that may be necessary. We are not the first country that has been left standing alone; however, dignity is never alone.

Not a step backwards.

OAS Discussions With Noriega, TEP, FDP

Noriega: 'Will Not Leave Power'

PA2505174989 Panama City Domestic Service in Spanish 1647 GMT 25 May 89

[Text] Panama—After a 3-hour discussion with the OAS delegation visiting Panama, General Manuel Antonio Noriega today appeared to be stronger than ever in his position as commander in chief of the Panama Defense Forces [FDP]. He said that he will not leave power until the United States stops meddling in Panama's domestic affairs. Noriega smilingly addressed the media while the OAS representatives returned to the hotel where they are staying in Panama City.

Noriega reiterated to the OAS delegates that whatever happens to Panama will also happen to any other Latin American nation, because what happens to Panama may set a precedent and because nations are historically in a state of flux. Therefore, Noriega stressed, whatever happens to Panama today could happen to any other Latin American country tomorrow.

Noriega revealed that the FDP officers accompanying him during the meeting gave the OAS delegation a detailed report on U.S. treaty violations, U.S. economic aggression, and the exaggerated presence of the U.S. military in Panama.

Noriega emphasized that the meeting was very positive. His optimistic statements were a far cry from those expected from a man willing to leave his position. Noriega was accompanied by several members of the FDP staff and by his closest advisers. He said the meeting gave the FDP an opportunity to express their opinions on U.S. aggression and meddling in Panamanian domestic affairs. Noriega said: We have spoken our truth to these guests in our territory because there is a Panamanian concept of state and government. As civilized people, he added, we simply devoted ourselves to explaining the problem of U.S. aggression against Panama.

This meeting with the OAS delegation began at 1530 and ended a little after 1800, under strict security measures. Noriega at first hesitated to make any statements, but, at the insistence of journalists, he walked some 20 meters—up to a protective fence—and said: It is not yet time to leave [retirarse].

More on Noriega, FDP Meeting

PA2505172789 Panama City CRITICA in Spanish 25 May 89 pp 1, 24

[Text] The OAS delegation visiting our country unexpectedly requested a meeting with the FDP, which took place yesterday at 1530 at the General Command of the Defense and Security Commission, also known as COGECODESE. The meeting ended at 1930, lasting exactly 4 hours.

During the meeting, 20 FDP officers of various ranks addressed the OAS visitors, explaining to and showing them the origins of the [U.S.] aggression, as well as the causes leading to the past election's failure.

Upon learning of this meeting, the U.S. Army removed its military display of armored vehicles ordinarily placed in front of reverted buildings, such as the FDP commander in chief's third most important military offices [oficinas terciarias]. The OAS was thus prevented from observing the U.S. military display. Such an action shows the United States' policy of international aggression is very weak. It also shows the United States' lack of character and its ability to deceive the international community.

General Manuel Antonio Noriega, FDP commander in chief, took the OAS mission on a bus tour of the U.S. military installations. These installations have been needlessly saturated with troops ready to fight the Panamanian people, which are peaceful and unarmed. A climate of respect prevailed during the meeting, in which the young officers taking part expressed a firm stance, stressing the mission and the importance of the transfer of command from one generation to the next, as should happen in an Army that is free from foreign meddling or domination. They added that each Army is freely entitled to its own rules and hierarchy.

It was a first-rate meeting, characterized by the great expertise and participation of the foreign ministers making up the OAS delegation. They listened respectfully to the ideas of the FDP officers. Confidential material was also handled during the meeting.

At the end of the meeting, some 100 journalists outside the COGECODESE building in Fort Amador asked General Noriega for statements. Noriega said: "The meeting took place in an atmosphere of respect. It gave the FDP an opportunity to relay the truth about Panama."

General Noriega said that "I am definitely convinced, now more than ever, that we are fighting the last battle of dignity against aggression here (in Panama). I want the Latin American people to know that what happens to Panama today could happen to any of the Latin American nations tomorrow. This struggle is definitely not taking place over a canal, which is inert material that can be built or destroyed. The struggle is over the special and geographically strategic location God has given Panama, but which the Leviathan wishes to administrate."

General Noriega stated: "This is no longer a struggle between men; this is a struggle between God and the Leviathan."

Delegation Meets TEP President

PA2605000789 Panama City Televisora Nacional in Spanish 2332 GMT 25 May 89

[Text] The members of the OAS special delegation today met Electoral Tribunal [TEP] magistrates with whom they broadly discussed the organization and development of the Panamanian electoral process. Delegation members Sahadeo Basdeo and (Lennox Witley) showed great interest in the next step in the electoral process in view of the election annulment due to irregularities.

TEP President Yolanda Pulice de Rodriguez responded to every question by the OAS delegates, pointing out there had been incidents during the voting that significantly changed the final result of the elections for the entire country.

No 'Agreement Formula' Found

PA2605031289 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 0150 GMT 26 May 89

[Text] Panama City, 25 May (ACAN-EFE)—Today, during their third day in Panama, the members of the OAS mission met separately with government and opposition leaders, without thus far having found any "agreement formula," sources close to the delegation have said.

One of these sources told ACAN-EFE that the "agreement formula" the mission must find in Panama, according to the 17 May OAS resolution, must be proposed by the Panamanians and not by the OAS envoys; this has not yet occurred.

Even though the OAS members have been able to talk with representatives of the two parties involved, one of the reasons no progress has yet been made is the mission not having a capacity to exert any pressure so that the two protagonists of the Panamanian crisis will sit face to face; that is, the United States and General Manuel Antonio Noriega.

A mission adviser stated that Noriega practically refuses to participate in the search for agreement formulas when he insists that the crisis must be solved by "the civilians," with an argument that "is correct in theory, but inexact in reality," that the FDP he commands are professional forces and have nothing to do with political affairs.

A source close to the mission pointed out that the United States is the "main protagonist" in the situation, but the OAS mission has limited action in "promoting, but not suggesting, much less imposing" the evasive "agreement formulas" only among the Panamanians.

"The opposition speaks of democracy and the annulment of elections and democratic liberties, while the government speaks of U.S. intervention. If there is no agreement even on what the problem is, it is very difficult to establish an agreement to solve it," the source added.

The same sources pointed out that the present OAS effort is due to Latin America asking the United States not to take new measures against Noriega and the Panamanian regime for the time being, while efforts were being made to find an agreement by diplomatic means.

"We came and made an effort, but if we do not succeed, we will return to the consultative meeting of OAS foreign ministers to report that we did not find any agreement formula," a diplomat who arrived with the mission stated.

OAS Secretary General Joao Baena Soares and Diego Cordovez, Mario Palencia, and Sahadeo Basdeo, the foreign ministers of Ecuador, Guatemala, and Trinidad and Tobago, respectively, "distributed tasks among themselves and arranged to meet today with personalities who really count," the source added.

Separately, each of them met in different parts of the capital with at least two opposition leaders, the Christian Democrats' Ricardo Arias Calderon and Guillermo Cochez; Fernando Manfredo, deputy administrator of the Panama Canal; Panama Electoral Tribunal magistrates; Foreign Minister Jorge Ritter; and former Foreign Minister Oyden Ortega, among others.

Also, they made efforts to secure a "closed door" meeting between one or more mission members and General Noriega, "strongman" of the regime," who received them on Wednesday accompanied by a large group of soldiers.

Sources close to the OAS mission explained that they hope to hear specific and viable "agreement formulas," because up to now the positions appear to be irreconcilable, with both parties setting conditions in advance that do not permit one to be optimistic.

In principle, the OAS mission members will end their visit on Saturday, "but they will be ready to return if necessary" next week, or before 6 June when the OAS consultative meeting will be resumed in Washington.

Sources close to the mission told ACAN-EFE of the possibility that an OAS mission member may stay in Panama, if there is any possibility of succeeding in the mission, while the others return to their respective countries.

Cordovez, for instance, plans to travel to Cartagena, Colombia, on Saturday where Colombian President Virgilio Barco, Ecuadoran President Rodrigo Borja, Peruvian President Alan Garcia, and Bolivian Foreign Minister Valentin Abecia are meeting to assess what the Andean Pact has accomplished during its 20 years of existence.

Further Reportage on Post-Election Actions

Solis Palma on Elections

PA2505173089 Panama City Radio Verbo in Spanish 1312 GMT 25 May 89

[Speech by Manuel Solis Palma, minister in charge of the Presidency, at a meeting with representatives of various government agencies at the Atlapa Convention Center in Panama City on 24 May—recorded]

[Text] Gentlemen: First of all, I want to thank you for being here. We will see in what way we can respond to and implement all the recommendations made during these meetings. I think that valuable contributions have been made, and, therefore, we will also meet with other government institutions.

Unfortunately, I must leave to head a cabinet council meeting, then to inaugurate the lottery system [laughter], and then I must return here to meet with financial sector representatives at 1530; so, as you can see, I have a very tight and busy schedule. Some of you were under the impression that this would be a meeting of a political nature. It is indeed a political meeting, but there will be a discussion of administrative policies. However, I would like to say a few words regarding political aspects per se.

The election annulment was based on very solid juridical reasons. I want you to know that there was no intervention by the Executive Branch, or the Panama Defense Forces [FDP], or by Commander Noriega himself. It was a decision by the Electoral Tribunal [TEP].

Of the more than 12,000 vote tally sheets that the TEP was supposed to receive the same day of the elections—because all the vote tally sheets had to be delivered to the TEP—the TEP has only received 1,200 to date. The rest were kept by the various political parties or were taken to private homes, but they did not arrive at the TEP.

Of the 4,255 voters registration books that were used at the voting tables, the TEP has not received 600. There is no record of how the voting took place at each table, as the books remained in private homes, with political parties, were destroyed, or whatever. The fact is that the TEP has no records.

How can a tribunal that wishes to maintain its self-respect declare a winner or loser in elections without having any evidence whatsoever? It is not a matter of declaring as winner the one who seems to have won based on the atmosphere that may have been created.

There is a fact which members of the European Parliament pointed out to us: You lost the elections 3 months ago; the international public was led to believe that the Panamanian Government lost the elections 3 months ago, for that was the gist of the propaganda that circulated throughout the world. You had also lost the elections internally, because the propagandistic and false reports, the disinformation, molded opinions. It is not a matter of who won or who lost the elections, as you had already lost. It is a fact. You should have never held elections under those conditions, because everything was against you. You only had two alternatives: Either you lost, or you lost. There was no choice.

There is no doubt about that. However, we decided to go ahead with the elections, because it was said that elections could lead to the solution of the Panamanian crisis, to the lifting of sanctions, and to the easing of international pressure. That is what SELA [Latin American Economic System] told us. However, after calling the elections, instead of lifting the sanctions, they were intensified and were renewed 1 year later.

The atmosphere that was created was aimed at making us lose, at creating an unfavorable image of the country, of the government, of General Noriega, and the FDP. Despite all of that, the TEP decided to annul the elections because—as it said—if Carlos Duque [National Liberation Coalition presidential candidate] was declared winner, the other side would challenge the results, and how could Duque's victory be proven when there are no vote tally sheets, voters registries, voting table records, or anything else? How could we say he won, how could we prove it, if the other side said that he did not? However, let us look at it from the other perspective: Let us assume that they claimed victory, that a vote-counting board declared Endara [Civic Democratic Opposition Alliance presidential candidate] the winner and that his victory was challenged. Would Endara provide the 4,250 vote tally sheets? Not now, after retaining them in his home for 1 month. Nevertheless, they should have been turned in to the TEP.

Gentlemen: A considerable number of vote tally sheets were blank because poll representatives from both sides were bribed; this includes members of the Electoral Tribunal [TEP] and political parties. There is evidence that many vote tally sheets were left blank, some were signed in indelible ink and bore roman numerals and were circulated in advance. They had been filled in ahead of time so that the figures and signatures could be added.

All those things have been discovered. I do not understand why TEP officials have not made a public scandal of this. In San Blas, there is evidence that 250,000 balboas were distributed on the last day of the elections [as heard] on one of the islands. We have the names of the people who participated in this action. The money was distributed in remittances of $500 each. We know the names of those who distributed the money to buy votes and party poll representatives. The Banco Exterior certified that they sent a plane on 4 May with a large sum of money—the exact amount is unknown, but it is said that it was $800,000—to Chitre and Las Tablas. This is in addition to the money that was flown by plane to Penonome, Santiago, and David. We know the exact number of people who participated in that action, because they ran out of cash twice and the money had to be sent right away; there was no time to send it in armored cars. This shows the large amount of money that was used to buy consciences, party poll representatives, and votes. In one case a $100 bill was found inside a green star [Christian Democratic Party] ballot. The voter apparently was confused and cast his ballot together with the money he had received for his vote. [crowd laughs]

We have all that evidence. All those things happened. It was one of the most corrupt and foul elections in the history of our Republic; therefore, they had to b annulled. However, there is one clear fact: On 1 September, there must be a transition in government. It is impossible to call new elections before 1 September, because they would have be be held during the 1st week of August in order to finish the vote-counting process and to have newly elected authorities by 1 September. Under the current psychological conditions affecting the Panamanian community, the trauma of the recent elections, it is impossible to call new elections by 15 August or 1 August. It is physically impossible; there is no possibility of that. The OAS delegation has admitted that this possibility does not exist.

This means that there cannot be a transfer of power on 1 September. However, the Administrative Code establishes in two articles—I believe in Articles 136 and 137—that when a government official is not replaced, he must remain in his post until someone replaces him. [applause] Therefore, legally there is no problem; legally there is no problem. [crowd shouts: Viva Solis Palma!; viva!] That is a fact. However, there is a political problem which requires a solution.

It is not enough to say that it is legal. We also have to consider the length of time involved. However, this cannot go on indefinitely. A transfer of power must be defined politically. This transfer does not necessarily mean that power must be turned over to the opposition. Power may be naturally transferred from one person to another within the same political party. [applause]

When the OAS delegation speaks of a succession of power, it refers to the simple fact that in a monarchy, power is transferred from father to son and is hereditary. In a democracy, this transfer of power is determined by elections and is called a democratic, as opposed to a hereditary, succession. I want to make it perfectly clear, however, that the Salvadoran delegation, intending to harm us, in fact did us a great favor at the OAS. The delegation proposed that, in the resolution, the words "democratic succession of power" be followed by the words "in accordance with the 7 May elections." This is what the Salvadoran delegation proposed. However, the proposal was defeated by the vote of the great majority of the delegates, who said: The 7 May elections have nothing to do with this transfer of power.

This defeat, therefore, meant that the OAS delegation did not come here to validate the results of the 7 May elections, because the Salvadoran proposal was turned down at the closed-door session. Indeed, some doubt might have remained if this proposal had not been made. As it turned out, however, the fact that the proposal was made but was rejected by the majority of the delegates also indicated that the elections were eliminated from the discussion. This is why Ecuadoran Foreign Minister Diego Cordovez said that the OAS delegation has not come here to validate anything but to try to bring two brothers together after their quarrel. The idea is for a third brother to do this. This is the purpose of their visit.

However, the Guatemalan foreign minister, a Christian Democratic Party member, said yesterday: What has happened has happened. Let us discuss what will happen from now on. This is his position. Those who expected

the delegation to swear in one of the candidates were disappointed. There was nothing of that. The delegation did not come for that purpose. [applause] I insist, however, that we must still consider a political, not a juridical, solution. The administrative code has already pointed to a juridical solution. I believe that Panama's position is very clear. We are politically willing to reach an understanding for the good of the people. We are willing to transfer power through elections. We believe in and respect human rights. We believe in democracy. However, we basically believe in national liberation and Panamanian nationality. We believe that we do not have to accept the continuous U.S. meddling in our domestic affairs, because Panama's liberation is of foremost importance. Let us solve this problem, and then we can talk about the rest. This is all I have to say; this is our political problem. [applause]

Junta Alternative Considered

PA2505223089 Paris AFP in Spanish 2125 GMT 25 May 89

[Text] Panama City, 25 May (AFP)—The formation of a provisional government junta appears to be the most viable alternative considered by the government as a way to solve the Panamanian crisis, according to government sources.

The presidents of the eight progovernment parties that form the National Liberation Coalition (COLINA), President Manuel Solis Palma, and the council of ministers discussed today the various options, "but the junta is the strongest," Juan Medrano, president of the Labor Party (PALA) told AFP.

Medrano said that meetings on the possible options "will be held until Saturday."

This civic-military junta, which the government will reportedly propose to the opposition, through the mediating mission of the Organization of American States (OAS) in Panama to find a political conciliation agreement, reportedly will be composed of one representative each of the opposition and the government and a ranking military officer.

According to Medrano, such a junta might dissolve the parliament, call for a constituent assembly, amend the constitution, or call for new elections.

For its part, it was learned from official sources that the OAS mediating mission will try to establish direct dialogue between the opposition and the government today or tomorrow.

The meeting, promoted by OAS Secretary General Joao Baena Soares and Mario Palencia, Sahadeo Basdeo, and Diego Cordovez, the foreign ministers of Guatemala, Trinidad and Tobago, and Ecuador, respectively, will have as protagonists Presidential candidates Hildebrando Nicosia Perez of the Authentic Panamenist Party (PPA), Guillermo Endara, of the Civic Democratic Opposition Alliance (ADOC), and Carlos Duque, of the government National Liberation Coalition (COLINA).

Meanwhile, meetings were being held in total secrecy today by the OAS mission, which will end its mission in Panama on Friday. The mission will submit a report to the OAS before 6 June.

For his part, Panamanian Foreign Minister Jorge Ritter today insisted that any solution to the Panamanian crisis must contemplate "respect of the Torrijos-Carter Canal treaties and noninterference by the United States in Panama."

For Ritter, at this moment "there cannot be a new electoral process," although he added that the political parties "now have the floor."

Ritter concluded that the main proposals for finding a conciliation formula among Panamanians must emerge from the 12 political parties that exist in Panama.

Finally, the foreign minister said he is "optimistic" about the results of the OAS mission here.

'Norieguist Movement' Formed

PA2505192189 Panama City CRITICA in Spanish 25 May 89 p 10

["Constitutional charter" of the Authentic Norieguist Movement, issued on 29 April "at Jose Pinzon Ballesteros' residence"]

[Text] Constitutional charter of the Authentic Norieguist Movement [Movimiento Autentico Norieguista] (M.A.N.):

We, as Panamanian patriots, became permanent members of the Authentic Norieguist Movement as of 2000 on 29 April 1989, at Mr Jose Pinzon Ballesteros' residence. We did so voluntarily and out of our own free will. Our action is merely a response to the calling of our love for the fatherland.

We thus act according to our consciences. We simply cannot and will not remain as spectators while our country suffers an aggression violating the most basic tenets of international law.

The fundamental basis of the Authentic Norieguist Movement lies in this motto: Not a single step backward. This motto implies moving forward until our plan for national liberation becomes a reality. Through this plan, all Panamanians—especially our children—will attain a sovereign, independent fatherland, based on the people's democracy.

On Panama's behalf, and together with our commander of dignity, General Manuel Antonio Noriega [commander in chief of the Panama Defense Forces], let us walk toward our free fatherland of the year 2000. Not a single step backward.
Jose Pinzon
Berta Reyna de Pinzon
Alfonso Morales

Authentic Norieguist Movement Directorate
Manuel Antonio Noriega, President
Jose Pinzon Ballesteros, I.D. No. 8-363-228, Secretary General
Elias Castillo, I.D. No. 7-40-41, Finance Secretary
Luis A. Ramos, I.D. No. 8-149-279, Press and Propaganda Secretary
Berta Reyna de Pinzon, I.D. No. 8-517-2162, Organization Secretary
Alfonso Morales, I.D. No. 4-87-517, Transportation Secretary
Milciades Castillo, I.D. No. 4-215-517, Charters and Documents Secretary
Gabriel Serret, I.D. No. 8-222-1255
c.c. General Manuel Antonio Noriega
c.c. Major Manuel Sieiro

Opposition Members Arrested

FL2505125389 Hilversum International Service in English 1030 GMT 25 May 89

[Text] In Panama, 10 opposition members have been arrested during a march to the capital. Among them were two bodyguards of opposition leader Ricardo Arias who led the 500 demonstrators. The protest march was supposed to lead to a meeting between Panama's opposition and a delegation of the OAS. The meeting nonetheless did take place.

The OAS delegation is currently in Panama to attempt to solve the crisis in the country. Later in the day, the OAS team met Panama's strongman General Manuel Antonio Noriega. During the 3-hour meeting, Gen Noriega complained about the stand taken by the OAS and the United States regarding the situation in his country.

Demonstrators Arrested

PA2505145489 San Jose Radio Impacto in Spanish 1340 GMT 25 May 89

[Text] A group of demonstrators accompanying Civic Democratic Opposition Alliance [ADOC] presidential and vice presidential candidates to the Marriott Hotel was dispersed by paramilitary groups controlled by Manuel Antonio Noriega's [commander in chief of the FDP] regime. The ADOC leaders had gone to the Marriott Hotel to meet with the OAS delegation visiting Panama. At the end of the march [to the Marriott Hotel]—and in front of several television cameras and journalists—two groups of riot police contingents showed up, carrying shields, tear gas bombs, and birdshot rifles. Regarding this incident, ADOC first vice president-elect Ricardo Arias Calderon said:

[Begin Arias Calderon recording] When we first arrived at the Marriott Hotel, we realized that the hotel was under the control of G-2 [Panamanian intelligence] agents. These agents tried to prevent some of our advisers from entering the hotel. I had to ask the Ecuadoran foreign minister, who heads the OAS delegation, to demand that two of our advisors—Christian Democratic Party legislators Guillermo Cochez and Carlos Arellano—be allowed to enter the hotel, because they were being denied entry by the G-2. I also had to pull some strings to get one of my assistants into the hotel, who was carrying the briefcase with all the documents we needed to present to the OAS foreign ministers and secretary general during our meeting. In other words, we attended this meeting while being surrounded by G-2 members. Furthermore, any access to the hotel was completely controlled by the FDP.

While we were at the meeting, military and paramilitary groups attacked the hundreds of Panamanians waiting outside the hotel for the meeting to conclude. We found this out at the end of our meeting with the OAS foreign ministers and secretary general, so we asked them to help us get those who were arrested released. One of my assistants, Mr Antonio Galvez, is among those arrested. He is still under arrest. Other people accompanying us—about 30 to 35 people—have been arrested. We have no information as to whether they have been released; on the contrary, we have been told that they are still under arrest. [end recording]

Argentina

President To Announce 'War Economy' Program

PY2505135889 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1216 GMT 25 May 89

[Excerpt] Buenos Aires, 25 May (NA)—It has been officially announced that President Raul Alfonsin will complete the formation of his "crisis cabinet" today and tomorrow and that he will address the nation next Sunday, 28 May, to announce the "war economy" program he will implement until 10 December.

Last night presidential spokesman Jose Ignacio Lopez pointed out that "the president will form his cabinet following the criteria typical of his government, according to the speech he delivered last Tuesday." [passage omitted]

Selects New Cabinet

PY2605001089 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 2359 GMT 25 May 89

[Text] Buenos Aires, 25 May (TELAM)—Following is the announcement of the new Cabinet by presidential spokesman Jose Ignacio Lopez at the Olivos Residence:

Interior Minister	Juan Carlos Pugliese
Economy Minister	Jesus Rodriguez
Foreign Minister	Susana Ruiz Cerrutti
Public Works and Services Minister	Roberto Echarte
Defense Minister	Jose Horacio Jaunarena (confirmed)
Labor Minister	Ideler Tonelli (confirmed)
Public Health and Social Action Minister	Enrique Beveraggi (he is currently abroad and must give his approval)
Education Minister	Jose G. Dumon
Secretary General of the Presidency	Carlos Becerra (confirmed)

Menem Stresses Need for National Unity

PY2505221189 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1727 GMT 5 May 89

[Excerpts] La Rioja, 25 May (TELAM)—President-elect Carlos Menem, governor of La Rioja Province, today reiterated the need for national unity, because "confrontations will only bring new frustrations to the Argentine people."

Menem said: "Let's think about looking into the past to heal old wounds," but also "to recall patriotic achievements," among which he included the Malvinas war, which was provoked by a military operation conducted in 1982 by the de facto government.

Shortly before a civic-military parade to mark Independence Day, Menem made an unscheduled speech at the central stage set up in front of Government House. Menem said: "This date, 25 May 1989, should serve to consolidate the unity of all Argentines and foreigners who live in this glorious country."

Regarding the Malvinas conflict, Menem stated: "I do not know how many years of generations will pass, but some day those islands and the South Atlantic will ultimately be an integrated part of our territory." [passage omitted]

Stressing the importance of national unity, Menem said: "Many heroic achievements were possible thanks to harmony and national unity, on which our people relied to build the current Argentina. Today we consolidate our national unity."

Menem said: "It is good, just, and necessary to recall those periods to draw lessons from them. Our people were also able to heal old wounds without selfishness, with self-denial and solidarity." [passage omitted]

Menem concluded by saying: "I do not want to discuss legal issues and other aspects of the Malvinas war. Today, 25 May 1989, I just want to recall those who fought in the Malvinas war, especially those who died at the Malvinas, those who died not in a strange land but in our own land, because that is our land." [passage omitted]

Pact To Fight Drugs Signed With U.S.

PY2505155289 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1851 GMT 24 May 89

[Text] Buenos Aires, 24 May (TELAM)—Argentine Foreign Minister Dante Caputo and U.S. Ambassador to Argentina Theodore Gildred have signed a cooperation agreement between the two governments to reduce the demand for and to prevent the unlawful consumption, production, and illegal trafficking of drugs and psychotropic substances.

By this agreement the two governments seek to strengthen mutual cooperation. As background information on the commitments assumed by the two countries, the agreement includes the single convention on drugs signed on 30 July 1961, amended by the protocol of 1972, the agreement on psychotropic substances signed in February 1971, and the memorandum of understanding on cooperation to eliminate the unlawful use and illegal traffic of dangerous drugs signed in 1972.

By this agreement signed today, the two parties are committed to continue making coordinated efforts and implementing concrete programs against the illegal production and traffic, and to reduce the demand for and unlawful consumption of drugs. The agreement also provides for cooperation in confiscating goods and profits resulting from drug trafficking.

To achieve this, the two countries will exchange information and experts on this matter and will seek cooperation in programs intended to eradicate illegal drug

plantations to repress the trafficking of these drugs, to destroy illegal laboratories and installations, and to reduce demand through preventive actions, treatment, and education of the people.

The Argentine Foreign Ministry and the U.S. State Department Office for International Narcotics Affairs will coordinate the implementation of this agreement.

The signing ceremony was rather unusual because this is the last agreement to be signed by Ambassador Gildred, who will end his mission at the end of this month.

Foreign Minister Caputo thanked the U.S. ambassador, "who will some day go down in history for his decisiveness, under tragic circumstances in our country, fulfilling his mission so faithfully and so honestly."

Gildred also said good-bye, stating: "This will be the last agreement I will sign in my capacity as U.S. ambassador to Argentina. This agreement represents the conclusion of several months of preparation between our respective governments."

He concluded: "I think the signing of this agreement today is equitable and stresses the importance the two countries give to the issue of drug addiction and drug trafficking. I have confidence that the cooperation we have achieved in this area over the past few years will be strengthened even more in the future."

Argentine-Brazilian Agreement on Pipeline

PY2505215789 Buenos Aires CLARIN in Spanish 25 May 89 p 40

[Excerpt] Porto Alegre—The monumental Piratini Palace, headquarters of the Rio Grande do Sul government, was the scene of the signing of an important international agreement between Brazil's Porto Alegre Governor Pedro Simon and Artentina's Entre Rios Governor Jorge Pedro Busti. The governors are eagerly seeking the materialization of a gas pipeline between Aldea Brasilera, near Entre Rios, and the industrial city of Porto Alegre.

This agreement marks the beginning of negotiations for the materialization of a project which the two governors have had in mind for some time now and which began with the construction of the mesopotamian gas pipeline—a portion under the Parana River has already been concluded—which will transit Concepcion del Uruguay, Paso de los Libres, and Uruguayana up to Porto Alegre if an agreement to complete it is reached.

The two governors believe that an important step forward has been taken with the signing of the agreement because it will represent—prior to an understanding between the government of the two countries— the possibility of Argentina selling gas to Brazil and the possibility of Brazil having access to this vital liquid, which in Rio Grande do Sul especially will be used not only for domestic purposes but also for the ever-increasing demand in the industrial sector.

The agreement provides for the creation of a state gas company in Rio Grande do Sul. A pipeline route, project, cost, and financing that will be "feasible and convenient to the interest of the two states" will be chosen. [passage omitted]

Bolivia

Ruling MNR Leads National Vote Count

PY2505151689 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0127 GMT 25 May 89

[Text] La Paz, 24 May (EFE)—It was reported today that the ruling Nationalist Revolutionary Movement [MNR] is leading the provisional national vote count, followed by the Nationalist Democratic Action [ADN].

The MNR, headed by former Planning Minister Gonzalo Sanchez de Lozada, has obtained 22.44 percent of a total of 1.5 million of counted votes.

The ADN led by former President Hugo Banzer is second with 22.19 percent.

The Movement of the Revolutionary Left [MIR] of former vice president Jaime Paz is third with 19.69 percent of the votes.

The final results of the general elections will be released on 26 May because the vote count was suspended in two of the Bolivian districts due to some incidents between the delegates of political parties.

None of the candidates, however, will obtain the absolute majority needed to be directly proclaimed president. Therefore, Congress will have to elect the new president in August.

Terrorists Kill Two U.S. Mormon Missionaries

PA2505155389 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 1521 GMT 25 May 89

[Text] La Paz, 25 May (DPA)—Two U.S. Mormon missionaries—aged 19 and 21—were shot to death last night by a group of terrorists from the Zarate Wilka Armed Forces of Liberation [FAL].

This is the same terrorist group that claimed credit for the foiled attack against former U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz in August 1988. In October, the group blew up power lines supplying La Paz, causing a power outage. The group also claimed credit for the January dynamite bombing in Congress.

The murder took place at 2220 last night and, 30 minutes later, the terrorists left messages with local newspapers claiming to be the assailants.

The message, which was handritten, said: "The violation of our national sovereignty cannot remain unpunished. This is a warning to the Yankee invaders who come here to massacre our peasant brothers and to their lackeys. We poor have no other option but to take up arms. Our hatred is implacable, and our war is to the death. FAL, Zarate Wilka."

The U.S. citizens—Todd Ray Wilson Burdenson and Jeffrey Brent Ball—were missionaries of the Christian Church of Latter Day Saints (headquartered in Utah), which, in recent years, has extended its activities in Bolivia by building dozens of temples. Both missionaries had been living in the vicinity of the General Cemetery located in a densely populated district of La Paz. They were killed with two bursts of machinegun fire.

A Mormon Church spokesman said that this was an attack against "two innocent people" and called on the police to solve the murders. He said that last year dynamite was placed at a temple in the same area, but the culprits were never identified.

The Bolivian Government has condemned the attack and ordered an immediate investigation. Deputy Interior Minister Walter Costas announced that the Traffic and Police Departments will carry out dragnets in La Paz.

The killing of the U.S. missionaries has coincided with the arrival in Bolivia of the first contingent of U.S. military engineers, technicians, and troops, who will be in charge of the task of leveling Patti-Patti Hill to build an airport for the city of Potosi.

Brazil

Sarney Orders Troops To Occupy Disputed Area

PY2505140689 Brasilia Radio Nacional da Amazonia Network in Portuguese 1000 GMT 25 May 89

[Text] President Jose Sarney has ordered Army troops to occupy an area of 500,000 hectares disputed by the states of Acre and Rondonia. The occupation will begin today.

Justice Minister Oscar Dias Correa has explained that, in compliance with Paragraph 5 of Article 12 of the Constitution, the federal government must guarantee the fulfillment of the decision made by the Constituent Assembly in defense of the principle of unity of the federation.

The justice minister added that, based on this constitutional principle, the disputed area of New California and Vilas Extrema cannot remain under the domain of one of the two states.

Under the current situation, any decision in favor of one state could lead to other conflicts, which could represent an attack on the unity of the federation. The justice minister said that the federal government must preserve this unity at any cost.

The minister said that it is impossible to make any decision under the current text of the Constitution. He went on to say that until the area is completely free of any other influences, federal troops will occupy the disputed area beginning today, 25 May. The occupation will end when the text of the Constitution is completed.

Franco PRN Vice Presidential Candidate

PY2505150389 Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 24 May 89 p 1

[Excerpt] In Brasilia yesterday PRN [National Reconstruction Party] presidential candidate Fernando Collor de Mello officially invited Minas Gerais Senator Itamar Franco to be his running mate.

Franco was being considered by other candidates, but he has agreed to join the PRN slate. In Manaus today, the PRN presidential candidate will begin a new stage of his campaign by participating in a rally. [passage omitted]

India, Iraq To Purchase Artillery Systems

PY2505035089 Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 24 May 89 P 26

[Text] Sao Jose dos Campos—This year India will be the newest purchaser of Brazilian-made weapons. Negotiations being conducted by Joao Verdi de Carvalho Leite, chairman of AVIBRAS Aerospacial [Brazilian Airspace Industry], are advanced and will result during the second half of the year in the signing of a contract worth some $200 million (228.4 million new cruzados at the official exchange rate). This is the first time India has purchased weapons from Brazil, and it will also be the first country outside the Persian Gulf to adopt the Astros-2 artillery saturation system as standard equipment for its Army.

According to sources linked to Itamaraty the agreement is a fact; all that remains to be settled is the financing of the purchase. The AVIBRAS chairman is traveling to India tomorrow to close the deal. He will then travel to Iraq, where he is also negotiating another deal for $200 million and a scheme for the payment of Iraq's debt to AVIBRAS, which amounts to $47 million (53.6 million new cruzados). The Iraqi Army has yet to receive Astros-2 systems from Avibras, worth almost $100 million (114. million new cruzados).

Chile

* Poll Assesses Presidential Candidates

33480171 Santiago QUE PASA in Spanish 13 Apr 89 pp 6-9

[Article by Magdalena Walker Mena and Gonzalo Becerra: "From Candidates to Silent Guests"]

[Text] Those who work at the true art which the drafting of public opinion polls has become agree that their efforts represent nothing but a photograph of the reality they are studying. Therefore the results revealed last

Friday, April 7, concerning the poll taken by the Public Studies Center (CEP), working jointly with ADIMARK [statistical research firm], between 13 March and 2 April must be the reflection of the period when the sampling was taken—the post-plebiscite era.

However, while only a single moment was reflected, the readings of the results vary just as widely as the interests which are at stake. In any case, there are some points on which the "expert analysts" of this poll agree. They include the status of the president of the republic, who again won the 5 percent of the preferences accorded him in the Social Study and Opinion Poll taken last December by the CEP. Analysts consulted by QUE PASA agreed that the chief executive is without political importance today, and that in terms of the other presidential "possibles," he should not be regarded as a rival now, nor even as an element detracting from their respective campaigns.

Another point of agreement concerns the candidacy of Sergio Diez—there is no disagreement in regarding it as definitely finished. This statement is based on the fact that from the zero vote he won in the popularity survey last December, he has risen no more than two points, after 3 months of campaigning. This percentage is thought to be his ceiling, and this would confirm the opinion of those like Ricardo Israel, a doctor of political science, who indicated at the time that "in the eyes of the country, Diez is dead," a tacit reference to the television program during which his candidacy was made public.

It is thought that a similar fate awaits the radical Enrique Silva Cimma, who is seen today as nothing more than a failed experiment by Ricardo Lagos, who did not succeed in his attempt to improve his negotiating position within the Concertation by supporting a man with as little charisma as the former comptroller general of the republic. Another consensus reached by the public opinion and political science experts who talked with QUE PASA has to do with the president of the PPD [Party for Democracy]. According to the survey results, Lagos has dropped from the 13 percent he won in the December poll mentioned above to 9 percent at present, giving the impression that his attitude is no longer that which caused such a furor prior to the plebiscite. Ricardo Israel has even voiced the theory that the socialist leader may have been nothing but a television phenomenon, and that those who saw him energetically pointing at and challenging Pinochet on the Catholic University channel viewed it more as a performance than a political phenomenon. Another factor said to be demonstrating the decline in the popularity of Lagos is his lack of a firm political base, something which, as he well knows, it takes years to develop. Another phenomenon detected during the joint work done by the CEP and ADIMARK is that "Don Froilan" is even losing his place—when the people who classify themselves as leftist were asked if they would vote for Aylwin, Buchi or Lagos, 7 percent chose the former minister of treasury, 54 percent expressed a preference for the president of the Christian Democratic Party (PDC), and 30 percent indicated their support for the man they regard as coming from their ranks.

The status of Francisco Javier Errazuriz is viewed as among the most successful from the marketing point of view, since he rose from the same zero level won by Diez to 8 percent in the same period of time. However, it is believed that his prospects for growth are not great, because of two specific facts. One is that the people already see Aylwin and Buchi as the finalists (and as a result have "joined up" with them), and the second is that his campaign has been focused to date on problems which the people are expecting the next government, not him individually, to resolve. When it comes to moving from criticism to proposals, the credibility of "Fra Fra" may become his Achilles' heel. Specifically, the prevailing atmosphere in the country would not favor taking such tempting offers as the elimination of the Development Unit "in less than 5 minutes" seriously, or believing it feasible that health and education could be entirely free.

This would pertain to the future, since today the banker sees his role as a "vote diverter." According to a statement made by Roberto Mendez, the director of ADIMARK, to QUE PASA, two-thirds of the support Errazuriz has comes from people who sympathize with Buchi, and the remaining third from those who would join Aylwin's supporters if this loquacious businessman were not involved in the contest. Moreover, Israel added, "the demagogy of 'Fra Fra' has led the other candidates to offer more," thus weakening the groups in the center-right which advocate more conservative proposals on economic issues.

But the key aspect of the study is the fact that it provides a basis for presuming that there will be only two contenders in the race for the Moneda Palace post—Patricio Aylwin and Hernan Buchi. They appear to have the greatest potential for winning the right to wear the presidential sash, and in the case of the former minister, the survey served as something like the final push for which he was waiting before deciding to accept his candidacy. In fact, Buchi is starting out with the knowledge that the only person capable of besting him in the elections is precisely the spokesman for the Concertation and the president of the PDC. A hopeful beginning.

Taking the December CEP poll as a point of reference, the long-haired "trotter" saw an increase of from 8 percent to 19 percent in those who would vote for him for president, and an increase of from 70 percent to 85 percent in those who say they know him. His popularity rose by 15 points in a 3-month period. However, Buchi is only 12 points away from Aylwin, and he has 8 months in which to turn things around. And as it would suffice to reduce this difference by only half in order to pull level with the opposition representative, the experts consulted by QUE PASA recommend that he position himself in the political center, such as to move the PDC toward the left. This is because this same poll showed that the parties the people associate with Marxism won no more than 17 percent of the votes. The left is also thought to have been weakened both due to the lack of a message and the lack of a representative leader. This theoretical

thesis prevailed to the extent that one of those we interviewed ventured to say that the left alone will be incapable of electing its own parliamentarians if it nominates a slate separate from that the Concertation would nominate in December. Even so, there are other analysts who would recommend that he raise his own banner, by way of a first step in the process of recovery which he will have to launch any time now.

Plunging fully into the political fiction, the supporters of Buchi agree that the most favorable scenario for their candidate would allow him to go into the election with two opponents representing the Concertation, thus dividing its strength. This would have the practical result for them that Buchi would win on the first round, but with less than 50 percent of the votes. At this point, the novel concept of a second round, which has been considered thus far by very few people, would come into play. And thus, the Buchi supporters believe, this young man of 40 springs would find his potential increased. They say that as the people are not accustomed to this electoral mechanism, the tendency of the majority would be to support the man who emerges victorious from the first round.

Logically speaking, this interpretation, as well, is a way of suggesting to those who have other electoral sympathies that only a single candidate can defeat Buchi.

The results of the poll showed no major new aspect in regard to Patricio Aylwin, the results of the poll showed no major new aspect. He continues to be the candidate with the best chance of success. What the sources consulted by QUE PASA did recommend that he do is attempt to establish a clear differentiation from the left wing, in order thus "to take over" the center, the most profitable position in the Chilean political spectrum today. There is also a practical reason for this convergence on a point equidistant between the extremes, on both the left and the right. The fact that one out of every five votes for Buchi represents an individual who voted "no" in the plebiscite, and one out of every seven votes for Aylwin represents an individual who voted "yes," makes it necessary for both contenders to abandon their respective alliances with these choices.

If Aylwin were to win recognition as "the" man of the center, he would be in a position for the best deal, winning votes from the left with a minimum of concessions and pushing the independent Buchi toward the right, a position which is less advantageous to him in electoral terms.

As to the campaigns which the two contestants should wage, the figures which make up the picture of the problems assigned priority for solution by the next government give some indication of what will happen when the battle begins. For example, while Ricardo Israel sees these results—wherein the five first choices were health, wages, jobs, education, and poverty—as a serious obstacle to Buchi's efforts, since he was the official in charge of public finance for years, other analysts set forth another view to QUE PASA. They presume that the opposition's heavy artillery will be targeted on the heart of the economic question, in general, and on Buchi, in particular. Almost paradoxically, they reject Israel's thesis, stating that the best defense for the former minister should be precisely his activities as a public official. When the moment comes, he will have to put his cards on the table—a comparison between the almost bankrupt country he took over and the present Chile, with all its public accounts up to date; the more than 35 percent real unemployment on the earlier date and the 5 and a fraction percent when he left the treasury post; and the gradual drop in production, as compared to the sustained growth of recent years. In short, he must point out his personal competence in dealing with what is regarded as the weakest aspect of the government now ending—economic and social affairs. Indeed, he must emphasize the redistribution aspect and make it clear that he does not represent the continuation of anything.

The first step in this direction is reported to have already been taken last weekend when he visited Cardinal Fresno at his private residence, accompanied by Sebastian Pinera, who is his campaign chief and a centrist who voted "no" on 5 October. This double asset might be a reaffirmation that the plebiscite plan is entirely in the past, and that the almost inevitable direction of any political protagonist must be to move closer to more moderate positions.

With regard to Buchi, a strategy based on the vitality and enthusiasm he communicates to the people is foreseen. This is an aspect in which he outranks Aylwin by 4 percentage points (40 percent as opposed to 36 percent). This is also true with regard to his appeal as a person, in which respect he won out with his 38 percent over the 32 percent achieved by the spokesman of the Concertation. In any case, as Roberto Mendez explained to QUE PASA, the figures provided by the CEP study have a static value, representing the moment when the sampling was taken, and responsibility for the projections is borne by those who make them.

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* Poll Assesses Presidential Candidates

33480171 Santiago QUE PASA in Spanish
13 Apr 89 pp 6-9

[Article by Magdalena Walker Mena and Gonzalo Becerra: "From Candidates to Silent Guests"]

[Text] Those who work at the true art which the drafting of public opinion polls has become agree that their efforts represent nothing but a photograph of the reality they are studying. Therefore the results revealed last Friday, April 7, concerning the poll taken by the Public Studies Center (CEP), working jointly with ADIMARK [statistical research firm], between 13 March and 2 April must be the reflection of the period when the sampling was taken—the post-plebiscite era.

However, while only a single moment was reflected, the readings of the results vary just as widely as the interests which are at stake. In any case, there are some points on which the "expert analysts" of this poll agree. They include the status of the president of the republic, who again won the 5 percent of the preferences accorded him in the Social Study and Opinion Poll taken last December by the CEP. Analysts consulted by QUE PASA agreed that the chief executive is without political importance today, and that

in terms of the other presidential "possibles," he should not be regarded as a rival now, nor even as an element detracting from their respective campaigns.

Another point of agreement concerns the candidacy of Sergio Diez—there is no disagreement in regarding it as definitely finished. This statement is based on the fact that from the zero vote he won in the popularity survey last December, he has risen no more than two points, after 3 months of campaigning. This percentage is thought to be his ceiling, and this would confirm the opinion of those like Ricardo Israel, a doctor of political science, who indicated at the time that "in the eyes of the country, Diez is dead," a tacit reference to the television program during which his candidacy was made public.

It is thought that a similar fate awaits the radical Enrique Silva Cimma, who is seen today as nothing more than a failed experiment by Ricardo Lagos, who did not succeed in his attempt to improve his negotiating position within the Concertation by supporting a man with as little charisma as the former comptroller general of the republic. Another consensus reached by the public opinion and political science experts who talked with QUE PASA has to do with the president of the PPD [Party for Democracy]. According to the survey results, Lagos has dropped from the 13 percent he won in the December poll mentioned above to 9 percent at present, giving the impression that his attitude is no longer that which caused such a furor prior to the plebiscite. Ricardo Israel has even voiced the theory that the socialist leader may have been nothing but a television phenomenon, and that those who saw him energetically pointing at and challenging Pinochet on the Catholic University channel viewed it more as a performance than a political phenomenon. Another factor said to be demonstrating the decline in the popularity of Lagos is his lack of a firm political base, something which, as he well knows, it takes years to develop. Another phenomenon detected during the joint work done by the CEP and ADIMARK is that "Don Froilan" is even losing his place—when the people who classify themselves as leftist were asked if they would vote for Aylwin, Buchi or Lagos, 7 percent chose the former minister of treasury, 54 percent expressed a preference for the president of the Christian Democratic Party (PDC), and 30 percent indicated their support for the man they regard as coming from their ranks.

The status of Francisco Javier Errazuriz is viewed as among the most successful from the marketing point of view, since he rose from the same zero level won by Diez to 8 percent in the same period of time. However, it is believed that his prospects for growth are not great, because of two specific facts. One is that the people already see Aylwin and Buchi as the finalists (and as a result have "joined up" with them), and the second is that his campaign has been focused to date on problems which the people are expecting the next government, not him individually, to resolve. When it comes to moving from criticism to proposals, the credibility of "Fra Fra" may become his Achilles' heel. Specifically, the prevailing atmosphere in the country would not favor taking such tempting offers as the elimination of the Development Unit "in less than 5 minutes" seriously, or believing it feasible that health and education could be entirely free.

This would pertain to the future, since today the banker sees his role as a "vote diverter." According to a statement made by Roberto Mendez, the director of ADIMARK, to QUE PASA, two-thirds of the support Errazuriz has comes from people who sympathize with Buchi, and the remaining third from those who would join Aylwin's supporters if this loquacious businessman were not involved in the contest. Moreover, Israel added, "the demagogy of 'Fra Fra' has led the other candidates to offer more," thus weakening the groups in the center-right which advocate more conservative proposals on economic issues.

But the key aspect of the study is the fact that it provides a basis for presuming that there will be only two contenders in the race for the Moneda Palace post—Patricio Aylwin and Hernan Buchi. They appear to have the greatest potential for winning the right to wear the presidential sash, and in the case of the former minister, the survey served as something like the final push for which he was waiting before deciding to accept his candidacy. In fact, Buchi is starting out with the knowledge that the only person capable of besting him in the elections is precisely the spokesman for the Concertation and the president of the PDC. A hopeful beginning.

Taking the December CEP poll as a point of reference, the long-haired "trotter" saw an increase of from 8 percent to 19 percent in those who would vote for him for president, and an increase of from 70 percent to 85 percent in those who say they know him. His popularity rose by 15 points in a 3-month period. However, Buchi is only 12 points away from Aylwin, and he has 8 months in which to turn things around. And as it would suffice to reduce this difference by only half in order to pull level with the opposition representative, the experts consulted by QUE PASA recommend that he position himself in the political center, such as to move the PDC toward the left. This is because this same poll showed that the parties the people associate with Marxism won no more than 17 percent of the votes. The left is also thought to have been weakened both due to the lack of a message and the lack of a representative leader. This theoretical thesis prevailed to the extent that one of those we interviewed ventured to say that the left alone will be incapable of electing its own parliamentarians if it nominates a slate separate from that the Concertation would nominate in December. Even so, there are other analysts who would recommend that he raise his own banner, by way of a first step in the process of recovery which he will have to launch any time now.

Plunging fully into the political fiction, the supporters of Buchi agree that the most favorable scenario for their candidate would allow him to go into the election with two opponents representing the Concertation, thus dividing its strength. This would have the practical result

for them that Buchi would win on the first round, but with less than 50 percent of the votes. At this point, the novel concept of a second round, which has been considered thus far by very few people, would come into play. And thus, the Buchi supporters believe, this young man of 40 springs would find his potential increased. They say that as the people are not accustomed to this electoral mechanism, the tendency of the majority would be to support the man who emerges victorious from the first round.

Logically speaking, this interpretation, as well, is a way of suggesting to those who have other electoral sympathies that only a single candidate can defeat Buchi.

The results of the poll showed no major new aspect in regard to Patricio Aylwin, the results of the poll showed no major new aspect. He continues to be the candidate with the best chance of success. What the sources consulted by QUE PASA did recommend that he do is attempt to establish a clear differentiation from the left wing, in order thus "to take over" the center, the most profitable position in the Chilean political spectrum today. There is also a practical reason for this convergence on a point equidistant between the extremes, on both the left and the right. The fact that one out of every five votes for Buchi represents an individual who voted "no" in the plebiscite, and one out of every seven votes for Aylwin represents an individual who voted "yes," makes it necessary for both contenders to abandon their respective alliances with these choices.

If Aylwin were to win recognition as "the" man of the center, he would be in a position for the best deal, winning votes from the left with a minimum of concessions and pushing the independent Buchi toward the right, a position which is less advantageous to him in electoral terms.

As to the campaigns which the two contestants should wage, the figures which make up the picture of the problems assigned priority for solution by the next government give some indication of what will happen when the battle begins. For example, while Ricardo Israel sees these results—wherein the five first choices were health, wages, jobs, education, and poverty—as a serious obstacle to Buchi's efforts, since he was the official in charge of public finance for years, other analysts set forth another view to QUE PASA. They presume that the opposition's heavy artillery will be targeted on the heart of the economic question, in general, and on Buchi, in particular. Almost paradoxically, they reject Israel's thesis, stating that the best defense for the former minister should be precisely his activities as a public official. When the moment comes, he will have to put his cards on the table—a comparison between the almost bankrupt country he took over and the present Chile, with all its public accounts up to date; the more than 35 percent real unemployment on the earlier date and the 5 and a fraction percent when he left the treasury post; and the gradual drop in production, as compared to the sustained growth of recent years. In short, he must point out his personal competence in dealing with what is regarded as the weakest aspect of the government now ending—economic and social affairs. Indeed, he must emphasize the redistribution aspect and make it clear that he does not represent the continuation of anything.

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Colombia

Peru's Garcia Holds Conference, Departs

PA2605025089 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0055 GMT 25 May 89

[Text] Bogota, 24 May (EFE)—Peruvian President Alan Garcia, who met with members of the 19 April Movement [M-19] today, has stated that his government is willing to conduct a peace process with Peruvian guerrilla organizations.

Garcia, who ended a 2-day visit to Bogota with a news conference, said that he is closely following the dialogue between the administration of Colombian President Virgilio Barco and M-19 as an "example" and praised Barco's "will for peace."

Garcia, who arrived on 23 May for an official visit to Colombia, will also attend the presidential summit in Cartagena on the occasion of the 20th anniversary of the Andean Pact. Garcia stressed his government's interest since 1985 in "talking" to the rebels "to know what they want, what their demands are, and what they need."

The Peruvian president said, however, that "the concept of violence and subversive organization is different in each country," and in Peru "irrational incidents prevail."

"Shining Path," a Maoist group that operates in Peru, "has turned the poor people into their victims, whom they try to dominate through terrorism," said the president, who asked: "What type of revolution is this?"

Garcia said that in Peru "we are hoping that reason can prevail in the country so the guerrillas can understand that they are going nowhere down this road."

"The left," he said, "has its own place and can express itself in the Peruvian democracy without resorting to extremist practices."

Even though he acknowledged that the "Tupac Amaru Movement," which also operates in Peru, has made "proposals that can be answered," Garcia said: "As for the Shining Path, we do not even know if they want to hold a dialogue. We only know of their irrational violence and anonymous nature."

During the news conference, held shortly after he signed a joint declaration with Barco, Garcia defended his position of not paying the foreign debt and said that he is not a "rebel, a demagogue, or a populist." He is only "facing the greatest powers on earth: bankers."

Garcia spoked about the "Brady Plan," promoted by the U.S. Government to improve Latin American economies. Garcia said the plan "is a novelty, but it is insufficient."

"Even though it includes the concept of debt reduction, 20-percent reduction is insufficient, because over the past 10 years Latin America has not received real credit, just new money to pay old debts," Garcia said.

Garcia, who took advantage of his first official visit to Colombia to sign a joint cooperation agreement against drug trafficking, denied that the United States is currently a good ally in this fight.

Even though both countries appear in U.S statistics on drug production, the United States grants $8 billion to Latin America to counter the trafficking and production of drugs.

"There is little interest," said Garcia, who did not rule out the possibility that new U.S. President George Bush can "change this situation."

As for the political crisis in Panama and General Manuel Antonio Noriega, chief of the armed forces in that country, Garcia called him a "cheap dictator" upon his arrival in Bogota on Tuesday.

The Peruvian president revealed that he has learned from a "reliable source" that no new elections will be held in Panama before September and that the current regime "foreshadows a clear dictatorship."

"There is no interest in respecting the results at the polls (where Panamanians went to vote on 7 May). The vote tally sheets were burned, and it cannot be proven that they—as international observers attested—favored the opposition," Garcia said.

What is going on in Panama, where the opposition claims to have won the elections that were nullified on 10 May, "is a trick played on the democracy of the continent," he added.

Garcia left Bogota after hosting a reception for President Barco, traveling to Santa Marta, where he unveiled a mural in honor of Simon Bolivar, painted by Peruvian Mauro Rodriguez.

Barco Urges Noriega To Respect Democracy

PA2505141089 Bogota Emisoras Caracol Network in Spanish 1238 GMT 25 May 89

[Text] Colombian President Virgilio Barco, who has already arrived in Cartagena for the Andean Pact presidents meeting, severely criticized those in Panama who believe that an entire nation can be used for the benefit of only one person or group. President Barco was very specific in a message addressed to General Manuel Antonio Noriega in which he said that Noriega must understand that the Panamanian democratic process must be preserved.

[Begin Barco recording, in progress] ...specifically by seeking for Panama [words indistinct] a democratic and fair system that can lead the country forward. [end recording]

Mines Minister Discusses Export Gains

FL2505171689 Bogota EL SIGLO in Spanish 12 May 89 pp 1-A, 1-B

[Report on interview with Mines and Energy Minister Oscar Mejia Valle by EL SIGLO journalist Alcibiades Bottia; date and place not given]

[Excerpts] Mines and Energy Minister Oscar Mejia Vallejo has revealed that the so-called Army of National Liberation [ELN] has taken over more than 50 gold mines in several locations in the Lower Cauca and has converted these mines into the main source of funds to finance their subversive operations.

Mejia Vallejo said that the ELN obtains between $2 to $3 million a month from the sale of the gold it extracts from these mines, that is between 800 million to 1.2 billion pesos per month.

Taking advantage of the fact that there are no rules governing the sale of the precious metal, the gold is being sold to the Medellin branches of the Banco de la Republica. This has ironically turned the bank's gold purchasing offices into a teller's window for subversive instead of shady deals [no en una ventanilla siniestra, sino en una ventanilla subversiva].

The minister said that the guerrillas often force workers to launder the gold at gunpoint. This has compelled the Armed Forces to enhance security by sending more members of the 10th Brigade to the area.

The municipalities most affected by this situation are Caucasia, Bagre, and Segovia, in Antioquia Department. The governor of Antioquia and the central government

are currently working out a plan to try to correct this anomalous situation. Fifty mines, representing an investment of close to 300 million pesos, are involved. [passage omitted]

Mejia Vallejo told EL SIGLO that he considers one of his greatest achievements converting the mines and energy sector into the top exporter and generator of foreign exchange in the country, surpassing the coffee sector, which up until now had contributed 60 percent of the country's foreign exchange each year.

This year $800 million worth of crude, $350 million worth of coal, close to $500 million worth of gold, and more than $100 million worth of emeralds will be exported. These figures clearly indicate that the mines and energy sector is currently the leading contributor to the nation's exports.

Continuing, the minister said that there is a good outlook for investments in the petrochemical sector. Although the government does not have a policy in this regard, there have been offers to set up industries in this sector for more than $1 billion, including the polypropylene plant in Barrancabermeja.

The minister said that the Rubiales camp, located on the border between Meta and El Vichada, might have reserves of some 250 million barrels of heavy crude, but he added that transportation problems would make exploiting these deposits very difficult. A special refinery would have to be set up close to the oilfield to help reduce the weight of the crude so as to make the transportation costs economically bearable.

In 1990 the exportable production of crude will increase by 100,000 barrels, which will allow Colombia to place some 270,000 barrels of crude on the international market each day.

Colombian petroleum will not be politicized, Mejia Vallejo said, adding: Although we maintain good relations with the OPEC countries, Colombia has not promised to reduce its production. It has only made a commitment to not increase production considerably for the time being so as to help keep the price stable on the international market.

He reiterated that Colombia will maintain its policy of association in the field of exploring for hydrocarbons. This policy will help ensure the nation's oil future, the minister stressed. [Passage omitted]

Mejia Vallejo said that local and foreign investors are correct when they point out that Colombian governments have not given the petrochemical industry the attention it deserves. He clarified that the country has never had a petrochemical policy and only now, since he has taken over the ministry, has a U.S. consluting firm been contracted to conduct a study of the refining and petrochemical sectors. The study will be ready in approximately 1 month, and then the mines and the development ministries will begin to draft a petrochemical policy.

However, he pointed out, this industry must be developed by the private sector, which should not try to obtain a subsidy by requesting a restriction of imports. It is considered that if Colombia is to have a petrochemical industry it must produce enough so as to be competitive at the international level. A restriction on imports would entail two things: Since the product would not be competitive, the investors would be passing on the extra costs to the consumers of petrochemical products, and eventually to the Colombian people; or they would try to obtain the raw materials at a subsidized cost.

Potential investors have been mentioning a vast development plan in Cartagena. For this we would have to expand our refining capacity, so as to channel this project toward the petrochemical industry; for example, to gasoline or naphtha.

The private investors are interested in the final phase of the refining process, which is accomplished by ECOPETROL [Colombian Petroleum Enterprise]. The government has offered to sell them crude, as long as the investors take charge of the refining process, but no interest has been expressed in this regard. Consequently, the executive branch is going to see if petrochemical development can be achieved with the products that are currently being made at the existing refineries and by the new refinery to be built. Of course, we will not attempt to build a plant that can handle 30,000 barrels daily to devote it exclusively to petrochemicals. [passage omitted]

Consequently, two major conclusions have been reached: first, a refinery for vast conversion should not be built; and second, it would not be cost effective to construct an intermediate type of refinery to handle heavy crude.

The government is convinced that what the country needs is a refinery that can be expanded gradually, as it becomes necessary to increase the rate of production.

Such a refinery, which would cost close to $400 million, could be built directly by ECOPETROL by means of a turnkey contract. [passage omitted]

The guerrillas are continuously talking of the need to nationalize petroleum, coal, and other elements from the mining sector, and a nationalization with indemnification has been mentioned. Minister Mejia Vallejo said that it has been reiterated over and over that this sector cannot be nationalized because Colombia does not have the resources needed to exploit petroleum or mining products, much less to indemnify the foreign companies that are working in the country. If we look at the rest of the world, including countries such as China and the

USSR, we will see a very unusual development. These two countries are entering into contracts with multinational companies to exploit petroleum as well as the petrochemical and coal industries. In the meantime, the guerrillas here are proposing a severely outdated form of perestroyka by demanding the nationalization of the oil industry, exactly the opposite of what is taking place in other parts of the world.

Countries such as Mexico and Venezuela, which nationalized their petroleum several years ago, are now reopening the sector to foreign investment. In Venezuela the government has explicitly admitted that it needs foreign capital in the petroleum, petrochemical, and refining sectors, and that existing legislation might be modified to permit foreign investment. In the meantime, it is being demanded here that the nation begin to move backward and start confiscating foreign capital. [passage omitted]

Pilot Denies Subversives Hijacked Helicopter

PA2505132289 Bogota Emisoras Caracol Network in Spanish 1215 GMT 25 May 89

[Text] When weather conditions permit, police and military forces, supported by the Colombian Air Force, will begin searching for the HK-3184 Helicol helicopter comandeered by six hijackers while on the Medellin-Negro run. The search parties will begin their work in the area where the helicopter was abandoned, near (Cemento Dorioclaro), in the Puerto Triunfo area, with the assistance of the crew that had been hijacked. Although police authorities have not clearly indicated who the hijackers could be, the passengers and crew of the helicopter have made statements that rule out a subversive action.

Helicopter pilot Pedro Suarez, who has had previous experience with a hijacking, said that the unidentified hijackers claimed to belong to four Colombian guerrilla groups. He also described them as well-dressed young men who treated the helicopter's passengers rudely.

Suarez said that after being forced to land in Rio Claro he was virtually dragged out of the helicopter. Then he was taken toward a field in a covered truck together with the rest of the passengers, who were not members of the group of hijackers. It was then that the driver of a dump truck helped them and drove them to the Medellin-Bogota highway. A metropolitan police spokesman told Caracol that a woman who accompanied the hijackers carried the weapons on board the helicopter, hiding them in her underwear.

Prisoners Start Fire To Protest Deaths of 22

PA2505191089 Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 1736 GMT 25 May 89

[Text] A large fire was started at the Bella Vista prison in Medellin this morning during an inmates' riot, the third in less than a week. A fire that began in the prison yard required the guards' and the Medellin firefighters' immediate attention. The flames consumed 10 cells and a hallway. The cause of the fire and the names of those responsible for it have not yet been determined.

The inmates presumably started the fire to protest the fact that 22 inmates have been found dead in less than 1 month. The most recent incident involved an inmate found stabbed to death yesterday morning under conditions similar to those of the others. The inmates have requested the presence of a human rights commission.

Five fire trucks were called for this emergency. Military personnel are conducting an investigation to determine the cause of the fire. It has also been reported that human rights commission and Antioquia Department officials are meeting with the prison warden to verify the inmates' reports on human rights violations in the prison.

Peru

Foreign Minister Rejects Nuclear Test in Mururoa

PY2405181089 Lima EL COMERCIO in Spanish 14 May 89 p A-5

[Excerpt] Peruvian Foreign Minister Guillermo Larco Cox has strongly rejected the nuclear test carried out by France on 12 May at the Mururoa atoll in the South Pacific.

Larco Cox reiterated that Peru supports the decision of the Conference on Disarmament, held in Geneva (Switzerland) on 25 April 1989, to definitely ban the nuclear tests.

Larco Cox said that it is urgent to reach an agreement on the definitive ban of nuclear tests in keeping with the Peruvian proposal raised at international forums such as the United Nations and the South Pacific Permanent Commission.

Larco Cox reasserted Peruvian support for the Tlatelolco Treaty concerning the ban of nuclear weapons in the region, and to the Rarotonga Treaty, which seeks to establish a "denuclearized" zone in the South Pacific. [passage omitted]

Shining Path Orders 2-Day 'Armed Stoppage'

PY2605012689 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2243 GMT 22 May 89

[Text] Lima, 25 May (EFE)—Today [22 May] is the 2d day of a 48-hour "armed stoppage" called in Chosica, a town located in Lima Department, by the Maoist Shining Path organization. According to the police, local residents feared that terrorist attacks could take place today.

The police also said that due to the stoppage, activities in stores and banks were reduced to a minimum. No attacks, damage, or injuries have been reported.

At least 200 policemen wearing bulletproof vests and supported by vehicles carrying artillery weapons were patrolling the streets of Chosica, which has a population of 20,000.

Chosica is located on the main highway leading to the Andean provinces of Junin, Pasco and Huanuco, where 2 weeks ago the Shining Path guerrillas managed to impose a 3-day "armed stoppage," during which two people—one of them an Army officer—were killed and five policemen and two civilians were wounded.

The police operation in Chosica includes a tight control of intercity buses and private vehicles. Police officers carefully check documents of travelers and cargo.

Local residents have voiced their concern and fear over possible Shining Path attacks similar to those perpetrated a few days ago against high-tension electric tower and against two bridges linking Chosica with Lima and Los Andes.

Last year, the Shining Path also called, with limited success, a 48-hour "armed stoppage" on the central highway, the most developed sector of Lima Department, on the way to Chosica.

According to Vice President Luis Alberto Sanchez, the Maoist group started an armed struggle in May 1980 and since then it has caused the death of some 15,000 people and damage estimated at $12 billion.

*** Armed Forces' Countersubversion Efforts Viewed**
81480655a Lima CARETAS in Spanish
17 Apr 89 pp 10-15

[Article: "The Timid War"; first paragraph is editorial comment]

[Text] Why did the DEA [U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration] helicopters take off and not those of the armed forces in the attempt to reinforce the police garrison at Uchiza when it was under attack? Speaking to Parliament, Prime Minister Armando Villanueva stated that our helicopters do not have night visors, whereas the North American helicopters do. This remark is not true. The FAP [Peruvian Armed Forces] has night visors. So the question is: why are they not used? In the following paragraphs are many other difficult questions. Shortly after the very serious police, military, and political debacle at Uchiza three retired generals made extended and questionable statements to the press.

The first statements were made by General (Peruvian Army) Sinesio Jarama, and they appeared in an interview in CARETAS by Luis Pasara. The second group of statements, recorded by Jaime Althaus and Jorge Morelli de Expreso, came from General Jarama and from Generals (Peruvian Army) Luis Cisneros and Clemente Noel.

The three officers come from different backgrounds. Cisneros was minister of the interior in the government of Morales Bermudez and then minister of war under President Belaunde. Noel was the first political and military chief of the emergency zone of Ayacucho. Jarama was the chief of the Second Military Region until 1985.

Nevertheless, the three agreed on: (1) blaming the "executive branch" (and not only the present government) for the lack of a "unified command" with proper budgetary support which would be ready for action in the social and economic areas; and (2) for not knowing about defects in the operation of the armed forces themselves and for avoiding any self-criticism.

For example, General Jarama stated that "very few people (who are active in the political life of the country) regard subversion as a political, ideological, and social phenomenon." On the other hand "in the armed forces there is an accurate concept of this phenomenon."

This was a risky statement in a country which has developed a new academic specialty: "senderologo" [in the study of the "Shining Path" guerrilla movement].

Furthermore, General Jarama said that "when an armed force is used by the executive branch for 9 years and is just sent to fight, without support, without action being taken in the political field, and none in the economic field—when you see that, you say: 'I am alone here. Whom am I defending? They are just using me.'"

The six engineers from the Cachis project in Ayacucho who were murdered in 1988 by "Shining Path" guerrillas would disagree with this statement. So would the farmers in the Andes mountains who have been receiving no interest agricultural loans and the highway builders and various professional workers who, since the beginning of the previous government, have tried to carry out development projects in the areas affected by the emergency.

Even so, this allegedly lonely situation of the armed forces, General Jarama indicated, could result in "immobilism" by some military elements. It would almost be a strike.

General Noel went further. This immobilism reportedly is not the problem. Previously, when he was in command, patrols went out in search of the enemy. Now they stay more often in their posts. He said: "They have lost their sense of initiative." In short, a war in which they are afraid.

General Cisneros did not answer a direct question whether or not it is appropriate to issue shotguns to certain farmer guards. He preferred to go into the complex question of strategic "domains." Speaking of the attack on Uchiza, he indicated that "the psychological domain is horizontal, whereas the military, political, economic, and social domains are vertical." Later he

stated that "in the very core of the government party there is more ideological common ground with the 'Shining Path' guerrillas than there is with the democratic system."

No one could accuse Cisneros the strategist of being serene and unprejudiced. Beyond the chameleonic verbal excesses of President Garcia, the APRA [American Popular Revolutionary Alliance] already has had several dozen of its leaders and supporters murdered.

As if it were a conversational topic in military barracks, in both interviews an allusion was made to the ill-fated electric train project as an example of waste. However, what has been spent on that project up to now—about $5 million—is not even one-fourth of what a Mirage 2000 aircraft costs, and we are buying 12 of them.

Furthermore, in a city like Lima, a system of rapid transit for the outlying areas is essentially antisubversive. Spending 3 or 4 hours a day commuting to and from work drives many people into throwing bombs. It is the demagogy and the lack of managerial capacity which the government can be charged with, not the electric train as such.

Agitated Climate

In the agitated political climate of the moment few people are concerned about questioning the basic premises of these well known military leaders. However, some people have done so.

For example, Edmundo Murrugarra, the Christian Socialist deputy, asked in the Chamber of Deputies why the DEA helicopters took off from Tingo Maria to try to help the Uchiza police detachment and not the military helicopters. Prime Minister Armando Villanueva answered that the DEA helicopters have night flight equipment while our military helicopters do not. This is fundamentally incorrect. (See the first paragraph of this article.)

Then Javier Bedoya de Vivanco, a PPC [Popular Christian Party] deputy, inquired on the program, "Good morning, Peru," why the FAP [Peruvian Armed Forces] reportedly have purchased a tanker aircraft capable of refueling airplanes in flight when the FAP did not even have night visors. A good question.

The following questions are good and difficult and are directed at the high command of the armed forces. They are questions which we civilians have every right to ask, as we suffer in various and growing degrees from the phenomenon of subversive violence.

In asking these questions of the military CARETAS does not seek to exonerate the present government, nor its predecessor, of all blame. We have criticized them many times. And now CARETAS says that the resignation of Armando Villanueva as prime minister and minister of the interior cannot be postponed.

CARETAS could not be accused of giving anyone a helping hand. President Alan Garcia has appeared on the front cover as a centaur (which some people thought was a mad horse) and with his nose growing long (an allusion to Pinocchio).

However, faithful to an old tradition, CARETAS insists on continuing to analyze the facts coldly, even in the midst of the tumult of criticism which accompanies the final phase of governments in Peru. Someone must ask these questions of the high command of the armed forces. CARETAS does so, thinking of some of the heroes who have already come forward in this struggle, like Captain (Civil Guard) Raul Carbajal Talavera, who died fighting in Uchiza in May 1987 without receiving reinforcements and with his ammunition running low, hoping to help to defeat the subversives:

- Is it true or not that military, police, and emergency expenditures during the first quarter of 1989 amount to 41 percent of the national budget? Is it true or not that in the midst of a full economic crisis the country is making an exceptional effort, substantially increasing and indexing the salaries of military and police personnel, increasing expenditures and purchasing new equipment?
- Meanwhile, can we say that there is optimum use of resources by the armed forces?
- Is it true, for example, that there are still 210 military attaches assigned abroad at a cost of more than $10 million and that a considerable number of officers make trips abroad for health reasons?
- And what about those 100 automobiles which were brought in through the port of Paita in 1988 (as part of an order for 400) and the Mercedes-Benz and BMW automobiles carried on the Peruvian Navy ship "Ilo." Were they for military personnel or not?
- No one pretends that officers travel on bicycles. However, are we in an emergency or not?
- On the other hand, is it true or not that the Peruvian Armed Forces have assigned only 1 Bell 212 helicopter to the Alto Huallaga zone, while it rents a dozen others to the petroleum companies? Is it true or not that despite the fact that there has been a seditious threat in the Department of Ayacucho for the past 9 years the Navy has decided to make other purchases to strengthen its oceangoing fleet? Is it true or not that just now, with the purchase in 1988 of 3 Bell 214 and 15 Soviet-made Mi-7 helicopters, it will be possible to add to the two or three helicopters which operate from Huamanga?
- Is it true that, despite the fact that we have at least 12 "Anvis" night flight visors from the United States, the armed forces are not flying their helicopters at night? And that the army, despite having similar, "Tadiran" visors from Israel, also is not flying at night the two Mi-8 helicopters which operate from Tingo Maria?
- Is it not absurd to think that, when we acquire helicopters at $2-3 million each, night visors costing less than $10,000 are not also purchased?
- On the other hand, can anyone deny that the armed

forces fleet of helicopters includes a regular number of Soviet-made Mi-25 attack helicopters, which are strongly armored, equipped with an automatic canon and capable of dropping fragmentation bombs and firing missiles? That nocturnal flight is an integral aspect of these advanced helicopters and that they have powerful spotlights to illuminate an objective? That their speed is greater than that of the majority of the Colombian light aircraft which make daily incursions in the Huallaga area? That, despite this aggression against our sovereignty and national security, the armed forces have not assigned a single Mi-25 to that area (although last week a North American reporter thought he had seen an attack helicopter in Tingo Maria)?

- Is it true or not that 102 armored trucks and half-tracks, which were originally acquired in Israel for the Division of Special Operations (DOE) in the Huallaga area, were turned over to the army by the president and that, since then, they have remained, unused, in the Armored Division?
- Is there or is there not an army garrison near Huancayo with several thousand men assigned which, until now, has done little or nothing in the struggle against the subversives?
- Meanwhile, is it true or not that the army continues to object to the use of Kalashnikov assault rifles by the police forces and that the armed forces are opposed to the use of police helicopters or light aircraft? Referring to the disaster at Uchiza, the army argues that the police tend to lose these weapons. However, how many weapons have soldiers lost when fighting at these altitudes against terrorist attacks and ambushes?
- Do not the armed forces display absurd contempt for the police while at the same time there is an incomprehensible rivalry among components of the armed forces which is at the point of seriously damaging the antisubversive effort?
- Is there not an excessive number of hypothetical theaters of foreign conflict (that is, the ideas of a war with Ecuador or with Chile) while the reality of an internal conflict consuming vital structures of national security (like the supply of electricity) is underestimated?
- It is all very well to speak of the need to take action in the political, economic, and social areas. However, when the bullets fly, which comes first, the shovel or the rifle?
- On the other hand, are we not wasting opportunities to engage in battle, such as the case of Uchiza, while excessive rigor is displayed in subsequent interrogation of the people living nearby?
- The political and military authorities have prohibited the entry of Red Cross representatives in the areas affected by the emergency. This incomprehensible attitude, added to some clear excesses, not only creates a hostile attitude on the part of the people. For example, the Congress of the United States prohibits military assistance to countries which violate human rights. Do not such violations have a very specific, negative weight?

In his speech in Congress General Enrique Lopez Albujar, the minister of defense, stated that the armed forces have a greater variety and higher quality of arms than those used by the subversive groups, together with infinitely better technical training. Can civilians, under the circumstances, believe that the armed forces are giving all that they have to the struggle? Evidently, the civilians do not believe this, but they hope that this will be done. General Lopez Albujar added that subversion will not endanger democracy and that it will be safe to hold the next elections. We must believe in those words and in the effective and considered use of the superior resources of the security forces.

Need for a Unified Command; Whose Fault?

One of the most general complaints which certain military personnel on active duty make in private and some retired military personnel express in public is that a unified command is needed in the antisubversive struggle. They also say that there are no clear directives from the government or that the authorities do not let the armed forces operate. And more than once they have not acted because of no "written order" during the period of this government and its immediate predecessor.

Curiously, the complaint about the lack of a unified command arises, not from the existing organization but rather from inconceivable rivalry between the armed forces and the police.

Strictly speaking, the operative chain of command in emergency situations begins, as in any other country in the world, with the chief of state, followed by the Ministry of Defense, the Joint Command with its general staff, and the political and military leaders of each zone. The latter observe the directives issued by the Joint Command but have command autonomy.

Although the Ministry of the Interior maintains a substantial and varying presence in the rest of the country, it subordinates its activities to the directives of the Joint Command in the areas affected by the emergency.

The National Defense Council (which includes the president, the prime minister, the minister of the interior, other ministers as needed, and the Joint Command) and now the Interministerial Committee for the Antisubversive Struggle (CILA) function as consultative bodies.

When directives are approved by the National Defense Council based on an "Hypothesis of Internal War"—the most recent one was brought up to date 2 months ago—it is up to the Joint Command, as a technical body, to deploy existing resources in the armed forces and the police and to designate the actions to be taken.

In turn, political and military leaders in each zone remain in control of all resources and personnel (including the police) stationed there. Nevertheless, in practice things go very differently:

- Orders from the general staff of the Joint Command (the transfer of helicopters to a certain zone, for example) are not necessarily followed by the armed force involved, arguing that it does not have the forces available.
- In zones affected by the emergency the political and military leader, who is almost always an army officer, has difficulty in making use of air, naval, and police forces, because the latter consult with their commands in Lima before following orders. And the leader himself, although he has authority to act by regulation also prefers to consult with the civilian leader of a region. This results in slow and bureaucratic action.
- Relations between the seven intelligence bodies are also a tangle of confusion, and cooperation with Dircote [Counterterrorism Directorate] is not very smooth.

The political authorities, both in the past and at present, have tried to improve these relationships but without any great success.

Thought has also been given to establishing a new, elite antisubversive body, picking the best men and equipment from each of the armed forces. Would it work? In this country, with its history of concessions of territory to one individual or another, each one guards his assigned area as if it were his life. Perhaps this kind of elite body would simply turn into one more group guarding its territory.

* Democratic Front Formally Constituted

81480655b Lima CARETAS in Spanish
17 Apr 89 pp 20-23

[Text] Keeping scrupulously to the schedule it had prepared a little more than 1 year ago, the Fredemo [Democratic Front] was established at noon on Friday, 14 May, when the basic foundations of its plan of government were signed. The leaders of the three groups which established the Fredemo in this way gave definitive shape to the aspirations of a significant number of the democratic citizens of this country.

On 12 and 13 April Mario Vargas Llosa made almost no appointments. Shut up in the study of his home in the hills and combining the functions of writer and politician, he spent these 2 days putting the final touches to the document entitled: "United for the Recovery of Peru." This was to serve as an introduction to the paper entitled: "Foundations for the Program of Government of the Democratic Front" which on 14 April, after being initialed by former President Fernando Belaunde and Luis Bedoya Reyes, made the birth of Fredemo official. In this way the path was cleared for the front to become the principal electoral choice in 1990. Meanwhile, it signed up its first ally, in this case the SODE [Solidarity and Democracy] under Javier Silva Ruete, who also signed the document, leading the list of members.

The event at which the front was established is of great importance for several reasons. In the first place it served to bring out the fact that among the three founding leaders there was a consensus necessary to announce that the presidential slate headed by Mario Vargas Llosa would be presented on 28 May in Arequipa—which has family memories both for the architect as well as for the writer. The first vice-presidential candidate will reportedly be a member of the AP [Popular Action Party], and the second vice-presidential candidate will be a member of the PPC [Popular Christian Party]. Therefore, despite the fact that the congresses of both parties are being held at this time—the congress of the Liberty Movement concluded on 16 April (see below)—logical party expectations will be reduced by these events, due to the agreement between the principal leaders of both organizations.

The most probable development is that they will concentrate on discussing some concrete proposals related to the basic principles of the program of government of the new front (which may be true, as they are general enough), as well as the names of the party leaders assigned to represent them, as previously agreed.

It is likely that Mario Vargas Llosa will be supported by Javier Arias Stella, Eduardo Orrego, Gaston Acurio, or Sandro Mariategui from the Popular Action Party as first vice-presidential candidate and by Felipe Osterling of the PPC as second vice-presidential candidate. The ideological congress of AP in Cuzco, which will begin on 23 April, and that of the PPC, which will begin on 30 April, will formally decide these matters.

Another aspect which made it possible to clarify the official establishment of the front was the organic role which the new groups to be affiliated with the front will play, following the example of the SODE. Even if, after entering Fredemo, they are represented in its leadership, they will have to accommodate themselves to the quota earmarked for the Liberty Movement when parliamentary candidates are chosen. In that sense the entry of the UCI [Independent Civic Union] into the front is almost a sure thing, since, in addition to the high level conversations now going on, the news has come out that the committee on the program of government headed by the group under Deputy Francisco Diez Canseco has found its views compatible with those of Fredemo.

In this way the party preparations of the principal members of the front have had to concentrate on the tasks of the approaching election campaign. Meanwhile, in the Popular Action Party, which has decided to turn the municipal elections into a real party renaissance at the national level, the architect of this strategy will have

to be careful to convince his most enthusiastic supporters to continue considering him as the best candidate for the presidential elections of 1990. In the Popular Christian Party the program will be different.

PPC supporters will apparently give up their plans to publish the newspapers ACTUALIDAD and ULTIMA HORA, in view of which the tucan bird will not be the emblem of Fredemo in the presidential elections of 1990. They are apparently thinking of issuing a political declaration and a program of government, devoting themselves to the task of electing their new leaders for the period 1989-1992. At the same time it has turned out that there will be several surprises in the reelection of the national party secretariat and that the PPC is reportedly considering the possibility of not presenting a candidate for mayor of Lima.

Sounds Like an Inauguration

When the Liberty Movement closed its first congress on 16 April, it had provided itself with a new organizational structure which will lead it in the forthcoming election campaign, in which it will have the responsibility of heading the presidential ticket of Fredemo.

Suddenly, the auditorium of San Agustin College was completely dark. White smoke began to come out from the highest part of the room and, shortly thereafter, flashes of electronic light appeared which, accompanied by a deafening sound, surprised those attending the opening of the First National Congress of the Liberty Movement. When this was over, an enormous bell began to be lowered in the center of the auditorium, sounding a chime, while the lights flickered. The loudspeakers went off and then the theme song of the Liberty Movement was heard at full volume. A few moments later Mario Vargas Llosa appeared on the stage.

In this way, with an absolutely novel style of stage setting, the Liberty Movement began the decisive and concluding event of its conversion into a political movement.

The enthusiasm which its supporters showed was not unwarranted. The 580 delegates attending, representing all of the departments in the country as well as the districts of Lima, packed the auditorium of San Agustin. Architect Luis Miro Quesada received special attention from Mario Vargas Llosa, who asked that he be appointed to preside over the congress.

Miro Quesada had already headed the organizing committee for the event, to which the Liberty Movement came with 50,000 members at the national level, according to its computers. Unquestionably, [illegible] was also a success for Miguel Cruchaga, secretary general of the movement and who, according to all of the indications, will be kept in that position.

Furthermore, the speech by Mario Vargas Llosa on the occasion served to confirm the positions which gave origin to the movement and to define his role in the Democratic Front. Thus, the writer stated that the movement would not be registered with the National Elections Tribunal, ensuring in this way that its participation in any election would always be in the company of the PPC and the AP. That is, from its very birth, the Liberty Movement recognized itself as the binding force of the front, as well as of the independents and other groups which are affiliated to it.

Of course, this development was something which was still being discussed at the congress when this edition went to press, for there was no shortage of those who preferred the Liberty Movement to be turned into a party and, in this way, to be less dependent on its associates in the Democratic Front.

The program of government was also under discussion, to the extent that there were still those who considered it necessary to have further clarification regarding a consistent group of young people who, steeped in an extreme form of liberalism, exerted pressure with the vehemence which characterizes them to obtain sharply defined positions on the matter.

Regarding the question of structure, the possibility of increasing the number of departments within the movement had been under consideration. Thus, the office of secretary general will reportedly be detached from the organization, with Rocio Silloniz assigned to head it. An office of ideology would also be established, with Enrique Ghersi to head it, which would be distinct from the office for the development of a government program, which Luis Bustamente Belaunde would continue to head. On the other hand everything led one to anticipate that more than one of the new offices would be held by some representative of the provinces, whose delegations accounted for almost 60 percent of those attending the congress. They had participated very little in the short life of the Liberty Movement prior to the date when decisions were made on these offices.

*** Possible Split of United Left Analyzed**

81480655c Lima CARETAS in Spanish
17 Apr 89 pp 24, 82, 86

[Text] As expected, the National Plenum of the United Left [IU] held in Huachipa on 15-16 April agreed in practice to the breakup of the leftist front. The Socialist Accord group, the quarrelsome faction led by Barrantes which has been moving steadily further from the National Leadership Committee of the IU, declared itself in rebellion and did not attend the plenum.

Until the morning of 15 April the punishment to be imposed on the rebel group—it is supposed that it would have been heavy—was under discussion. However, as is usually the case in the IU, after the verbal violence enough room was left to avoid an open break. In any case

there is a dilemma facing both the supporters of Barrantes as well as the other groups (PUM [Mariateguist Unified Party], UNIR [National Union of the Revolutionary Left], FOCEP [Student Peasant Worker Popular Front], APS-Mohme [Mohme Faction of the Socialist Popular Action party], PC of Jorge del Prado [Jorge del Prado Faction of the Communist Party], and the MAS-Pease [Pease Faction of the Social Action Movement]). The dilemma involves who will take the first step toward a break and who will dare to face the angry criticism for having favored a split in the fragile front.

On 12 April a major gesture was made by the supporters of Barrantes. They did not follow the parliamentary faction of the IU in leaving their seats in Parliament, which had been decided on by the whole opposition as a sign of protest because their members were not permitted to speak after Prime Minister Villanueva made his address on 10 April. The Socialist Accord group argued that the responsibility of Congress is to debate and not to avoid democratic confrontation so that public opinion would know fully the charges and the alternatives which the opposition advocated regarding the economy and the antisubversive struggle.

In the pro-Barrantes group there are those who applaud quick action in swallowing the bitter medicine of separation from the IU. They are driven by the strategic need to begin the election campaign of Alfonso Barrantes, whom they have already presented publicly. On the other hand Alfonso Barrantes, and very deeply as part of his deliberate style, prefers to go slowly to the extent that he has made progress in his conversations with the Communist Party, which has become the controlling axis of the IU since its last congress. It is well known that Barrantes has confidence in the negotiating ability of Jorge del Prado and in the moderate wing led by Valentin Pacho and Gustavo Espinoza. There are those who say that in case the Communist Party does not support Barrantes, the latter would no longer have any support as a presidential candidate. In that case the Socialist Accord group would have Enrique Bernales as a certain presidential candidate. Others say that if Barrantes is not a candidate in the 1990 election, this would mean his virtual disappearance from the political scene. Nevertheless, such speculation does not explain the most intimate thoughts of the man from Cajamarca, who prefers the strategy of a direct approach to provincial and district party bases, using popular holidays and commemorative ceremonies in the numerous provinces where his popularity is still substantial.

The plenum, the holding of which is a fundamental step in completing the election schedule, had several other difficulties to face, apart from the disqualification of the Socialist Accord group. Both in Congress as well as at the plenum the positions of the so-called PUF [not further identified] (the PUM, the UNIR, and the FOCEP) have made it possible to undermine the momentary—if that is what it was—hegemony of the supporters of Barrantes and the eventual encirclement of Jorge del Prado. As it may be recalled, the Communist Party in Congress put its money on a two track game. Faithful to the maintenance of unity, it supported the followers of Barrantes in their political views and plan of action. However, it supported the "ultras" concerning the shaping of the National Leadership Committee and the manner by which it was chosen.

The angry feelings in the plenum have not cooled, but it is now making the parties move, including those which have a series of internal steps to go through to approve their platforms and proposals before the internal elections within the IU, which reportedly will take place in May.

One of those anticipated events is the meeting of the Central Committee of the Communist Party, where it will be definitely known whether Del Prado still has strength or whether, on the contrary, the radical wing, led by a young man inclined toward a revolutionary rather than an electoral struggle, rejects any sympathy for Barrantes, in the sense of favoring his candidacy. In this way they have skipped past the accumulation of standards which the IU has been setting up to slow down the appetites of Barrantes, the man from Cajamarca.

Doubts of the PAP

On the night of 13 April at 2020 hours the Chamber of Deputies went into secret session. It had just approved the constitutional accusation against Hector Beltran, Luis Portugal, Sinclair Seminario, and Leonidas Vasallo, members of the Supreme Court accused of having voted improperly in the verdict of not guilty handed down in the case of Perciles Sanchez Paredes, who had been accused of the crime of narcotics trafficking. In the corridors it was said that this accusation would not pass the Senate.

The secret session was held to consider the case of Deputy Manuel Angel del Pomar. Deputy Duberly Rodriguez (IU) handled the case for the prosecution. The usual procedure is for the president of the chamber to handle the matter. However, it happened that in this case Flavio Nunez Izaga (PAP [Aprista Party of Peru]) had asked Rodriguez to replace him, as he felt very uncomfortable accusing a fellow party member, despite having voted for the lifting of his immunity in the committee considering the case.

Rodriguez based his prosecution for the most part on arguments and evidence already well known:

- The check signed by Manuel Garcia Montes was intended to be cashed by Deputy Del Pomar and Willy Studer, his cousin;
- The alleged affair of the purchase of machinery between Garcia Montes and Studer is totally false and therefore the purpose of the funds which they allegedly collected from the account frozen by the German courts had no known, legitimate purpose;

- Deputy Del Pomar, when he was met by the police in the bank, hid in a counter the rest of the checks and credit cards of Garcia Montes which he was carrying, believing that they would be thrown into the trash. Therefore, he continually asked for the relevant seizure order to be shown to him. The appearance of the checks and the order issued by the prosecution contradicted the allegation that the deputy knew nothing of the matter;
- The reason given for his presence in Berlin, that he planned to attend a meeting of the IMF, was demonstrated to be false. Also refuted was the story that he was going to a meeting of the World Union of Liberal Professions;
- His denial of having given a card of recommendation to Garcia Montes was also rejected, which required him to change his story once again, admitting that one of his employees had made the recommendation, thereby abusing his position;
- Even on the supposition of his having been the only person accompanying his cousin and of having made the ridiculous trip from Basel to Berlin just to cash a check, Del Pomar was not unaware of the dangerous situation that Garcia Montes was in and of his links to narcotics trafficking

As no one—not even the Aprista Party—wanted to make the deputy in question lose face, Del Pomar came out in his own defense.

He was unable to refute any of the evidence presented and only tried to undermine all of the work done by the German police and prosecutor, stating that an anonymous phone call was what had made the police aware of his identity as a deputy and that, for that reason, a political maneuver had been undertaken against him as an act of vengeance.

In view of the consistency of the evidence and the weakness of his statements, Manuel Angel del Pomar tried his hand at the emotional approach. He asked for consideration on behalf of his sons, who have had problems in school. He recalled his late wife, attributing the immediate cause of her death to the Berlin affair. He also asked for consideration of his professional situation which, according to what he said, had been affected extensively.

Fernando Leon de Vivero, Carlos Roca, and Bertha Gonzales-Posada, deputies from his party, were moved by his statements but voted to deprive him of his immunities. With their votes the majority of those present and voting was raised to 70. However, depriving a deputy of his immunities requires one-half plus one of all duly qualified deputies, that is, 79 votes, since 25 members of the Chamber of Deputies were on vacation. In the Chamber of Deputies at the time of the vote there were 97 deputies. Who were the 27 who believed in Del Pomar?

Twelve of them were Apristas [members of the APRA—American Popular Revolutionary Alliance]. They have been called by other members of their party the "The Scaffold Twelve." Among them are Leonidas Velez, Juan Pizarro, Abdon Vilchez, Guido Cortes, Jose Lescano, Emilio Suarez Galdos, Maria Colan, Teresa Flores, and Carlos Capelleti. But it was not only in the APRA that Del Pomar found support. Victor Alfaro, an AP deputy, also remained seated at the time of the vote. Was he asleep?

For the IU the discrepancies in Del Pomar's testimony also affected the friends of the narcotics traffickers who were already impressed by the check signed by Garcia Montes. Deputies Jesus Palacios Cordova, Tasiano Giron Rojas, and Frine Pena Castro-Cubas were in favor of Del Pomar.

The supporters of the PPC [Popular Christian Party], for their part, did not leave their seats to vote. Perhaps their digestion left them feeling heavy in the stomach. Only Deputy Roberto Ramirez del Villar and one other voted for depriving Del Pomar of his immunities.

When he knew that he was safe, Del Pomar could not hide his satisfaction. However, it lasted for only a short time. Voices from his own party shouted that the vote had been disgraceful. Hector Vargas Haya, president of the Chamber of Deputies, pushed his chair to one side and said: "So much preparation to accuse a man, and this happens. They are not going to do this to me again."

The Aprista parliamentary faction met immediately and scheduled a meeting on 14 April in Alfonso Ugarte. At noon on 14 April a motion to reconsider the vote was presented so that the chamber might review the case once again. The request, made in writing, was initialed first of all by Secretary General Luis Alva Castro and is scheduled to be presented on 18 April for immediate consideration by the Chamber.

At the meeting Del Pomar sought to enter, but he was refused access. Deputy Alberto Valencia tried to allow him to enter but met with firm opposition.

* Garcia's Resignation, 1989 Elections Proposed

81480655d Lima CARETAS in Spanish
17 Apr 89 p 25

[Article by Luis Pasara: "Looking for a Way Out"]

[Text] After the Uchiza affair and the presentation made by the cabinet in Parliament the national drama has acquired a tone of urgency. If the massacre in the Alto Huallaga area showed a lack of action in dealing with subversion, the painful spectacle offered by the Villanueva cabinet disposed of any hope regarding the capacity of the Apristas to deal with the so-called crisis.

In common usage the word "crisis" is a kind of verbal substitute which can give us a false sense of tranquility. This is because it serves to explain everything: inefficiency, failure to act, and that perceptible slackness that spreads to behavior and a sense of responsibility.

As the word explains everything, it explains nothing. After 15 years it is no longer proper to go on speaking of a crisis, which is, by definition, something temporary. Something much more serious has taken root in our country, with every prospect that it will be permanent.

In Peru we are living through a complex process of decadence, in which only by grasping at a militant form of optimism can we see the beginnings of a better society. The evident fact is that during the last 15 years we have become increasingly worse.

We are living through this slide into a worsening situation at two major levels. On the one hand, in the state, whose machinery now appears restricted to the disorderly exercise of corruption, while it is absolutely incapable of attending to its most elementary obligations. Patients die of malnutrition in the hospitals. The Pan American Highway is covered with sand, and only volunteers clean it in return for the payment of a private toll. Personal security exists for those who can buy themselves a gun or, even better, pay for a bodyguard. A police unit can be decimated without any military force going to its assistance. Judges receive rubber checks in payment of their salaries. In short the state has collapsed and subsists by not functioning, both on its civilian as well as its military side.

On the other hand a process of profound change is occurring in society. The lack of standards—not only those announced by the state but simple social standards—has caused regression in the country toward a primitive version of coexistence.

If rebuilding the state will be difficult for the government to be installed in office in 1990, reversing the anomalous process which has captured Peruvian society is something beyond the possible reach of any government. It is a task which will take generations.

For the time being, there is now an urgent need to halt that process of corrosion which Peruvian society and the state are suffering from. And the urgency of this task is becoming dramatic in view of the limitations of the government in charge.

Nevertheless, there remain 15 long months of Aprista government, during which the illness which the country is suffering from will probably worsen the extent to which it has become irreversible.

The resignation of Prime Minister Villanueva and his cabinet is necessary. However, at this level of Aprista failure, it will probably not be enough. In effect the time has come to consider surgical solutions.

The sharp and growing process of erosion in the country in all areas makes it easy to anticipate that by July 1990 the situation will be much more serious and difficult to deal with. Therefore, why let this illness continue developing if the ineptitude of those whom we elected in 1985 has been demonstrated?

Despite the fact that it has not completed its term, the Aprista government has demonstrated that it is unable to continue governing the country. Lacking credibility, a consequence of a series of major mistakes, it clearly lacks ideas.

The proposal has been made that the president should resign so that the first vice president might appoint a multiparty cabinet which would lead the country until 28 July 1990. Vice President Sanchez appears to have closed this door when he replied that, out of loyalty, he would not agree to replacing President Garcia.

Then perhaps it is time to discuss seriously the proposal made by political figures as different from each other as Senators Diez Canseco and Silva Ruete: hold general elections in 1989.

Advancing the date of elections is a perfectly constitutional possibility, derived from Article 208 of the text. The only thing required is that President Garcia and his vice presidents should resign. Clearly, the difficulty does not lie in the lack of a legal formula but rather in conquering pride and vanity.

If anything was true in what President Alan Garcia said he believed during his election campaign, today he should feel an obligation toward this country, which is in serious condition. He should stand aside to make it possible to find a democratic solution to the chaotic condition of the state and the ongoing process of dissolution of society. It will be up to others to attempt to cure this situation.

Relations Established With Laos, Sao Tome

PY2405181489 Lima EXPRESO in Spanish 12 May 89 p 16

[Summary] New York, 11 May (AFP)—Through two communiques released today at the United Nations, Peru announced that it has established diplomatic relations with Laos and Sao Tome and Principe.

National Statistics Institute Appoints Director

PY2505150689 Lima EL COMERCIO in Spanish Section E, 12 May 89 p 1

[Summary] According to Supreme Resolution No 0081-89-PCM, Felix Murillo, the former INE [National Institute of Statistics] technical director, has been appointed INE director. He replaces Ulises Robles Freyre, who was dismissed.

Venezuela

Perez Says Government Will Accept Noriega

PA2605035889 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0250 GMT 26 May 89

[Text] Cartagena de Indias, 25 May (EFE)—Venezuelan President Carlos Andres Perez said today his country "has no objections to accepting General Manuel Antonio Noriega," commander in chief of the Panama Defense Forces, if that contributes toward solving the Panamanian crisis.

Following the first meeting of the Andean Pact presidents in Cartagena de Indias, Perez said Latin America "must show it can resolve its own problems."

Ecuadoran President Rodrigo Borja, Peruvian President Alan Garcia, Venezuelan President Carlos Andres Perez, Colombian President Virgilio Barco, and Valentin Abecia, Bolivian foreign affairs and worship minister, are meeting here to mark the Andean Pact's 20th Anniversary.

Carlos Andres Perez told the press that Panama "has a commitment with Latin America and has to keep the commitment to its great leader Omar Torrijos."

He added that Panama "must respond to Latin America, and our countries are interested in solving the crisis" that country has been experiencing since 7 May.

According to the Venezuelan president "the Panamanian people must be allowed to express their will and that will must be accepted. Perez said: "Venezuela has no objections in letting Noriega arrive in our country because our sole purpose is to contribute toward seeking friendly solutions and a graceful way out of the Panamanian crisis."

On the same topic, Perez stressed that "the Latin American countries do not want foreign intervention of any kind," and noted that in Panama's case, the OAS "has acted in full agreement" with the United States.

The Venezuelan president added that the Andean Pact countries "fully support" the charges made here by Ecuadoran President Rodrigo Borja concerning "Citicorp's seizure" of over $80 million.

The above-mentioned Andean Pact presidents and the Bolivian foreign affairs and worship minister today spoke during the 1st day of a 3-day meeting to mark the Andean Pact's 20th anniversary.

Following self-criticism, the presidents concurred in noting integration is more necessary now than 20 years ago, and vowed to revitalize the "agreement of Cartagena."

EFE learned from sources close to the meeting that the presidents and the Bolivian foreign minister, who came on behalf of Bolivian President Victor Paz Estenssoro, will tomorrow sign the "Cartagena Manifesto."

President Announces New Economic Measures

PA2505211589 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 1930 GMT 25 May 89

[Text] Cartagena, Colombia, 25 May (DPA)—In the past few hours, the Venezuelan Government announced in this city on the Caribbean that it will adopt new economic adjustment measures, such as lifting restrictions on foreign trade and selling state-run enterprises to the private sector, among others.

According to Venezuelan Finance Minister Eglee Iturbe de Blanco—who closed the fourth meeting of banks of the Andean Pact within the framework of events marking the 20th anniversary of the signing of the Cartagena agreement—the application of the new "package" will begin on 1 June and its effects will be felt during the last quarter of 1989.

The measures—part of President Perez' economic adjustment plan that gave rise to serious disturbances by the populace in Caracas and other Venezuelan cities—include a plan to promote exports and admission into GATT, and lifting restrictions on imports and exports.

Minister Blanco added that, in addition, Venezuela will fully comply with all provisions of the Andean Pact's agreement, surcharges on imports will be eliminated, foreign trade procedures will be simplified, and tariffs will be reduced.

According to Mrs Blanco, "the traumatic effects from the fiscal and monetary reorganization imposed in Venezuela will continue until the end of the year."

Blanco said in Cartagena that "I would apply the adjustment again," despite the disturbances that took place in her country from which the death toll was officially set at 270, but which is believed to have been higher.

Later, in a speech to Colombian, Venezuelan, Ecuadoran, Peruvian, and Bolivian bankers, she asserted that "the tragic results stemmed more from misunderstanding than from the economic adjustment agreed to with the IMF."

She added that "Venezuela's dilemma does not consist of not repaying debt or shedding more blood. The question is to make unavoidable sacrifices to be able to forge ahead and achieve greater well-being."

Blanco also reported that her government will reduce the size of the state and will begin to privatize public enterprises, particularly commercial banks and hotels.

The meeting of bankers was a prelude to the summit that will bring together Colombian President Virgilio Barco, Venezuelan President Carlos Andres Perez, Peruvian President Alan Garcia, Ecuadoran President Rodrigo Borja, and Bolivian Foreign Minister Valentin Abecia. It will mark the 20th anniversary of the creation of the subregional Andean Pact, which expects to take on new momentum at this Cartagena meeting.

Students React by Demonstrating

PA2505190189 Caracas Venezolana de Television Canal 8 in Spanish 1600 GMT 25 May 89

[Text] The Central University of Venezuela [UCV] students march is to protest the government's package of economic measures and the increased bus fares for students. The march is taking place without incident and is expected to end with a rally at El Venezolano Square.

The march is generally expected to develop into an organized popular movement against price speculation and for the regulation of preferential bus fares for students. In addition, the students are concerned with the problem of high-priced school supplies, and small subsidies for the universities.

UCV employees, professors, and students participated in the march. The Simon Bolivar University, the Gustavo Herrera School, the Technical School of Campo Rico, and the Jose Avalos School will also participate. A total of 8,000 students are expected to take part in the march.

[Begin unidentified student recording] We are holding the march to demand respect for and implementation of the preferential bus fare for students. The agreement on enforcement of this fare between the government and the transportation companies expires 27 May. We ask that this fare be maintained because we, as the children of the Venezuelan people, cannot go on carrying the heavy burden of higher fares. [end recording]

A brigade of some 600 students will be watching to make sure that the march will proceed normally and to prevent agitators from infiltrating to cause problems. The march will pass through Andres Bello Avenue and Urdaneta Avenue and will turn at the corner of Las Ibarras toward El Venezolano Square, where the main event will take place.

* Finance Minister on Economic Adjustment Plan

33480178c Caracas EL NACIONAL in Spanish 26 Apr 89 p D-7

[Article by Rafael Palacio D.: "Agreement With World Bank Depends on Trade and Tariff Policy"]

[Text] The minister of finance has said that, in spite of conversations with creditor commercial banks, the strategy of the government is to reduce our total debt.

The signature of a letter of intention with the World Bank is conditioned on the negotiations which the president is presently conducting with the multilateral organization on the outline of a trade policy which would include the elimination of quantitative restrictions and the reduction of levels of tariff protection. This was stated on 25 April by Minister of Finance Eglee Iturbe de Blanco.

During the luncheon offered by the Venezuelan Institute of Finance Executives, IVEF, the minister of finance outlined the strategies which the government is following to achieve the reorganization of Venezuelan companies. However, she completely avoided announcing any new measures or responding to criticism made by certain sectors, particularly the trade unions represented in the CTV [Confederation of Venezuelan Workers], regarding the package of economic policies. In the same way she did not wish to make any "predictions" on the levels which rates of bank interest may reach and what the rate of the U.S. dollar may be on the foreign exchange market.

She stated: "The institutions of our country are functioning inadequately because they have not known how to adapt themselves and change in accordance with the new conditions under which our economy is functioning. We may find an example of this situation in the Ministry of Development which, over time, has turned itself into more of a regulatory body and less of an entity for the promotion of economic development. Among other things, the present strategy also seeks to ensure that it is not only the public sector which stimulates production and drives the economy. For this reason, through a process of working together we are seeking to make the private sector more productive and competitive."

The minister of finance summarized the bases for the official strategy of readjustment in five points: a single and floating exchange rate for the U.S. dollar, adjustment of bank rates of interest to bring them to positive levels, tariff reform and a new trade policy, a prices policy, and the progressive reduction of the budgetary deficit. In this sense she reiterated that in terms of the goals set out by the executive branch, some of which are included in the letter of intention with the IMF, it is expected that the budgetary deficit will amount to between 2.5 and 3 percent of Gross National Product.

She stated that a substantial proportion of extraordinary revenues coming from the devaluation of the bolivar will be used for social expenditure, to cushion the impact which the package of measures is having on the people with the lowest incomes. She said that economic strategy will be reinforced by the efforts made to reduce the total amount of the external debt or the service of our outstanding loans, as well as attempts to consolidate OPEC and avoid a fall in crude oil prices on the international markets.

At the same time she referred to the strategy of the government for the promotion of nontraditional exports, the establishment of the Guarantee Fund for small and

medium-sized industry, and the cooperation achieved with the financial sector to reduce the rate of interest on agricultural loans to 15 percent.

Salaries

Asked about the well advertised receipt of "fresh money," Iturbe de Blanco said that in June between $1.2 and $1.3 billion from the IMF should come into the country. These funds will be part of an overall loan (Expanded Service) extended over the next 3 years and totaling about $5 billion. She stated that loans from multilateral organizations present no problems for their eventual approval. However, the same is not true with commercial banks, which initially asked for collateral in the form of gold or petroleum in connection with loans.

In this sense she said that the meetings with the chairman of the Chase Manhattan Bank and with representatives of the Bank of Tokyo would be aimed at achieving greater understanding with creditors to defer repayments and obtain greater payment facilities. She said: "However, our fundamental strategy is to achieve a reduction in the total amount of the debt."

Regarding the possibility that a new salary increase may be approved before the end of the year, the minister of finance limited herself to mentioning that the salary readjustment approved 2 months ago represents an additional distribution of 29 billion bolivares and that another increase is not contained in the budget.

She was asked about the warning from the Fedecamaras [Venezuelan Federation of Associations and Chambers of Commerce and Industry] that excessive social expenditures could endanger the program of readjustment. In this respect she pointed out that both the previously mentioned salary increase, like the subsidies on basic dietary products and mortgage interest are within acceptable limits for social expenditure and therefore will not affect the normal development of the economic readjustment process.

Finally, she announced that a tax reform program is being developed to modernize the collection of revenue and to modify maximum tax levels and other aspects of this matter.

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